

RUC officer admits lies on shooting

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

An RUC sergeant admitted in court yesterday that he had lied in a statement about an incident in which his unit killed one man and badly wounded another.

The officer, referred to as Sergeant X, said he was ordered by a superintendent and an inspector to use a cover story to protect an informant and conceal Special Branch involvement in the operation.

He was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of Martin McCauley, aged 22, of Lurgan, who was wounded in the incident in November, 1982.

McCauley denies the possession of firearms with intent to endanger life and in suspicious circumstances. The court has already heard how police arrived at a farm outside Lurgan as a result of information from an informant.

The sergeant said that he and two constables were approaching a hay shed when they thought they heard a weapon being cocked.

Warnings were shouted but the sergeant saw a man inside the shed gripping a rifle which was pointed towards them. The sergeant and one of his colleagues fired bursts from their machine guns. The man repeated and the sergeant who had fired 30 shots, drew a pistol and fired three more times.

Another figure lying on a pile of straw and holding a rifle was also shot.

It was later discovered that there was no ammunition in the rifles and none in the shed. Two of the weapons had their bolts missing, and all three were rusted and between 40 and 70 years old.

The sergeant demonstrated in court how he saw Mr McCauley holding a rifle and how, after the police had opened fire, the accused had thrown the weapon away.

The defence counsel said that the sergeant had described the accused holding the gun in a right-handed grip when he was left-handed. He also told the officer that medical evidence would show that McCauley was so badly wounded that he would have tossed away the rifle.

The trial continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Younger to see unions

MR GEORGE Younger, the Scottish Secretary, told MPs yesterday that he would meet teachers' unions and local authority employers to discuss the dispute disrupting schools in Scotland.

Teachers are staging a series of one, two and three-day strikes in support of their demand for an independent review of salaries, rejected by Mr Younger last month.

He has said that he is prepared to consider proposals linking pay and conditions from an examination by the joint negotiating committee of unions and local authorities.

Mr Bob Beattie, deputy secretary of the Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest teaching union there, said it was unlikely disruption would stop pending the meeting.

More services work for women

THE services hope to make more use of women, the House of Commons Defence Committee was told yesterday. But there will be no change in the army's rules which define them as non-combatants.

Ministry of Defence witnesses told the committee that the possibility of using more women in military support roles was being explored because recruitment and retention were beginning to look more difficult.

Editors support information pleas

THE Association of British editors aligned itself with the Campaign for Freedom of Information at its first meeting yesterday.

The association also supported the Local Government (Access to Information) Bill, which would allow public access to council sub-committee meetings, and the Water Authorities (Meetings) Bill, which would enable reporting on their proceedings.

Lennon's sex drawings display

JOHN Lennon's sex drawings were back in the public eye yesterday for the first time since Scotland Yard raided an exhibition 15 years ago.

Liverpool's Beattie City display of memorabilia launched yesterday's exhibition on the anniversary of the raid. Police said there were no complaints.

Naval expert denies becoming newspaper's 'mole' for £1,500

Observer 'bribed MoD official to leak confidential information'

By Paul Keel

A senior Ministry of Defence official was "bought" by the Observer newspaper, which published confidential material provided by him in return for payments, it was alleged at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

Raymond John Williams, aged 38, of Charlcombe Lane, Bath, a former senior executive officer at the Ministry of Defence, denied two charges of corruptly accepting money from the Observer as an inducement or reward for giving information to the newspaper.

The charges allege that on November 9, 1983 Mr Williams accepted a cheque for £1,000 and that on November 18, 1983 he accepted a further £500 in cash.

Mr Michael Brodick, prosecuting, said that Mr Williams had been employed by the Ministry for 15 years and at the time of the alleged offences had risen to a senior position in its directorate of naval weapons, resources and programmes, based at Bath.

He was so familiar with the financial aspects of a number

of naval weapons programmes, including various torpedo systems and the Trident missile, that he became the department's briefing expert.

But by October 1983, Mr Brodick said, the defendant had acquired financial problems and had become restless in his job and was looking for employment elsewhere.

Entries in his diary from that period shown to the jury yesterday revealed a growing concern about his debts and the first contacts he made with the Observer.

Mr Brodick said he was looking for some form of employment outside his job and he thought the newspaper might be able to assist him.

His first meeting with a representative from the Observer took place in Bath on October 28, 1983, when he held a general discussion about himself and his work with Mr Patrick Bishop, then a reporter with the newspaper.

Mr Williams later wrote in his diary: "The car, the house? Everything is at risk at the moment and I think I'm putting too much reliance on

the possibility of a retainer from the Observer if they agree to pay me about £2,000 or so fairly quickly."

On November 1 he had a further meeting at the Observer's London office. Just over a week later the newspaper paid a cheque for £1,000 into his bank account in Bath.

Mr Brodick said that by chance Mr Williams was seen on the day the cheque was deposited by an employee from his bank.

She saw him sitting on a bench in Bath with two men to whom he appeared to be showing typescript documents. Mr Williams later told police that the two men were Mr Bishop and Mr Ian Mather, the Observer's defence correspondent.

On November 13 the Observer published a story alleging financial incompetence and a cover-up within the Ministry of Defence's naval division. Mr Brodick said that because of the wording of certain passages in the article a connection with Bath was made and suspicion soon fell on Mr Williams.

His house was searched on November 19 by police, who took away his diary. The previous day he had been to the Observer's office in London and received £500 in cash but had later feeling "shattered," as he later told police, when he realised to what use they had put his information.

Mr Brodick said the prosecution was not suggesting that the information which Mr Williams had given to the Observer was classified as secret. But it was confidential.

He said the Observer was prepared to pay for and publish such confidential material.

"It is corrupt because the inference must be that the payment was required to overcome the defendant's normal natural and expected loyalty to his employers," he said.

Mr Brodick told the jury: "Putting it crudely, bluntly and blatantly, the conclusion you should make is that this defendant was bought, and as a result he betrayed his employer's confidences in return for money."

The hearing continues.

Nacods halts all national talks with coal board

By Malcolm Fithers

The pit deputies' union, Nacods, yesterday decided to halt all talks at national level with the NCB in an attempt to force the board to negotiate with the NUM.

Nacods delegates met in Barnsley to discuss a 5.2 per cent pay offer. A branch level meeting will be held on the offer, with the result expected on January 25.

The delegates were told that negotiators walked out of a consultative meeting with Mr Ian MacGregor, the NCB chairman, on Tuesday.

The Nacods president, Mr Ken Sampey, said yesterday that he believed the NUM was willing to negotiate but Mr MacGregor had shown a totally negative attitude and seemed prepared to wait for the NUM to collapse.

A refusal by Nacods to talk to the NCB will disrupt pay negotiations, and the goodwill of pit deputies in crossing picket lines is vital to maintain coal production.

Mr Sampey said Mr MacGregor had declared that he would not talk to the NUM until it had some "responsible leadership."

Mr Sampey, Mr Peter McNestry, the union's general secretary, and Mr Joe Benham, the national treasurer, all said yesterday that they had been disgusted with Mr MacGregor's attitude.

Mr McNestry said it was plain that further talks were not going to take place even with the NUM's full national executive.

Mr Benham accused Mr MacGregor of being callous and Mr Sampey said that the sooner Mr MacGregor was removed from office the better.

He said their walkout was a spontaneous reaction in disgust at Mr MacGregor's "totally negative attitude."

If he thought the drift back to work would solve the problems, he had not understood the history of mining, said Mr Sampey.

He added: "A move has got to come from him to end this terrible dispute, which is not only destroying the industry but also the morale of the workforce. I honestly feel, and it is a personal opinion, that the NUM is prepared to negotiate, but it neglects others which occur in the less glamorous reaches of the evening; for instance, the contribution made during the unemployment debate on Tuesday night by Mr Michael Forsyth, the new Conservative member for Stirling (or as Hansard, with one eye under a microscope, it is the member for Stirling)."

Mr Forsyth is one of the products of the militant market school which has recently flourished on the windy shores of St Andrews. He is the sort of man whose ambition might be to be spoken of in the same breath as Dr Madsen Pirie.

In Tuesday's debate, not long after Mr Heath sat down, he made the most

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Another attack on taxi carrying miners

A taxi driver taking miners from work in south Wales was attacked yesterday when a large stone was hurled through a rear-side window of his car.

The driver, Mr Howard Crothers, worked for the same Cardiff firm, City Centre Cars, which employed Mr David Wilkie, who was killed while taking a miner to work last month.

Mr Crothers was hit between the shoulder blades by an 8lb stone, police said.

He was bruised and "in discomfort."

His passengers, two miners on their way from Sir Bells Colliery, near Aberdare, were unhurt.

Mr Crothers was taken to hospital by ambulance. He was waiting at the side of the road at about 5 a.m.

This was a premeditated attack with the intention of causing injury to the driver or

occupants," a Gwent police spokesman said.

Mr Joe Tree, owner of City Centre Cars, said Mr Crothers was determined to carry on driving working miners. "He went back to pick the men up when they finished their shift," he said.

Mr Tree was "amazed" that such an attack should happen after Mr Wilkie's death.

"I don't believe these people are true representatives of the average picket line," he said. "We are sending 20 vehicles each day to various pits and 98 per cent are incident free."

Police said the taxi had no police escort at the time of the attack. It had not been felt necessary to provide one because there had been no trouble recently in the area.

The woman with whom Mr Wilkie was living, has given birth to his son.

The baby was born on Tuesday at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff.



Mr Derek Sage (right), the kidney patient whose treatment was stopped on doctors' orders, returned to Simon Hostel, a local centre for the socially deprived in Oxford, yesterday after beginning new treatment at the private north London Charity Hospital.

Switched on Sinn Fein wins a prize

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

SINN FEIN'S promptness in paying its electricity bills has won it a video recorder and a nice little publicity coup in the Irish Republic.

The electricity account for its headquarters in Dublin popped up as the winner of a monthly draw run by the Republic's Electricity Supply Board to encourage customers to pay their bills promptly. Any customer who pays within two weeks is automatically eligible.

In this case the winning number belonged to the Kevin Barry Club at Parnell Square, Dublin. The state-owned company thought nothing of it until Sinn Fein's publicity director, Mr Danny Morrison, turned up to collect the prize. The Kevin Barry Club is also the Sinn Fein's Dublin headquarters.

Anger greets £1bn plan for derelict dockland

By John Carvel

Government Correspondent

A £1 billion plan to turn the derelict Royal Docks in London into "a new water city for the 21st century" was announced yesterday by the London Docklands Development Corporation.

The proposal, which would be the most ambitious piece of urban renewal in Britain, was attacked by East End community groups as a hard sell for commercial developers which would ignore the needs of local people.

The Royal Docks, which closed port operations in 1981, are dominated by the GLC's field of activity in Surrey Docks and the Isle of Dogs enterprise zone. They include 700 acres of land and 10 miles of quayside, most of which is still to be acquired by the LDDC from the Port of London Authority and gas corporation.

The LDDC, a quango set up by the Government in 1981, said the area stretched from the Tower of London to Marble Arch and from Euston to Waterloo. It was one of

Europe's largest remaining urban development sites.

Mr Reg Ward, LDDC chief executive, said he hoped that the project could be completed in seven to 10 years. The public sector would have to provide £200-£300 million of the cost.

The Government has led the LDDC to believe that this money will be forthcoming. The plans include an exhibition convention centre, a sports and leisure complex, business and commercial activities and a large marine centre.

Mr Ward said the potential for new jobs was limitless and about 5,000 had been created in the LDDC area so far.

Newham people who object to the airport and want more homes for rent built in the area picketed a press conference at Victoria Dock to launch the plan.

Mr Michael Ward, chairman of the GLC industry committee, said: "The LDDC strategy contains no firm proposals, just ideas to tempt developers. We have plans for the Royals, drawn up with local firms and community organisations."

MPs urge spokesmen to promote pits cause

By Colin Brown

Labour Staff

frontbench spokesmen have been asked by the party's backbenchers to do more to bring the case for the miners to the fore in Parliament.

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party in the Commons yesterday, a number of MPs urged opposition spokesmen to make more effort to include references to the miners in questions and speeches from the despatch box.

It was suggested that this could have been done when the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, made a statement to the Commons on Monday about the reintroduction of minimum lending rates and the increase in interest rates. It is expected that frontbench spokesmen will do what they can to take up the idea.

Mr Clive Soley, the Labour spokesman on law and order, said yesterday after visiting picket lines in South Yorkshire that miners there had lost confidence in the British criminal justice system and the impartiality of the police.

"The miners I met recognised the dispute had not been an easy one for the police but felt the style of policing had been disastrous," he said.

The former Labour cabinet minister, Mr Roy Mason, was written to the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, protesting that other workers have been denied unemployment benefit since the miners' strike began. He said these included outside contractors, casual workers, apprentices, and redundant mine workers.

Union ban on coal shipments collapses

By Tom Sharritt

An attempt by the National Union of Seamen to prevent the shipment of coal by sea from Workington, Cumbria, to Shropshire power station, West Sussex, has collapsed.

Owners of two cargo vessels were granted a High Court injunction against the union and the NUS members on board voted to sail.

The NUS is to return to court next Tuesday to challenge the injunction.

The case came before the High Court earlier this week after the loading of two ships, the *Stability* and the *Speciality*, both 1,597 tons. The ships belong to a fleet of small cargo vessels operated by F. T. Everard and Sons Ltd, who have offices in London and Greenhithe, Kent.

Everards were granted an injunction restraining the NUS from inducing or attempting to induce the two ships' crews to break their contracts. The injunction was continued for seven days by Mr Justice Woolf on Tuesday.

The general secretary of the NUS, Mr Jim Slater, hearing court on Saturday, said that on Tuesday and later met Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union to express the NUS's disapproval of the action of TGWU members at Workington.

A third vessel, the *Kindness*, whose crew were working on Saturday, took on a cargo of coal, and sailed for Shropshire later the same day. The *Kindness* is owned by a firm at Rochester.

Firms' cars 'cost each household £75'

By Geoff Andrews

Transport Correspondent

Tax perks for company cars cost each household in Britain about £75 a year, about the amount paid in subsidy for the public transport system, says a study published yesterday.

With 50 per cent of new cars being bought by companies for employees, who typically use the vehicle mainly for commuting and private motoring, the report claims that the tax system amounts to a

state subsidy of about £1.5 billion a year.

It says the majority of company cars are now of foreign origin, representing a negative balance of payments of about £2.5 billion.

The London Amenities and Transport Association report, financed by local authority and public transport interests, says that company cars account for more than 10 per cent of all those on British roads, compared with 2 per cent in France, less than 4 per cent in

the United States and 6 per cent in West Germany. Only Norway has more than the UK, where company car use has increased by 21 times in 20 years.

The report claims that because most company cars are larger than employees would otherwise have bought, petrol consumption has been pushed up by 20 per cent.

The Company Car Factor, LATA, Tress House, Stamford Street, London SE1, £5.45.

Poison warning after beached whales put down

By Michael Parkin

Humbly Grove police last night warned the public not to take any action with regard to the beached whales which were put down after becoming stranded on a beach at the Humber estuary mouth.

The police said that people had already begun to hack at the carcasses of two of the 34 pilot whales which were stranded on the beach near Spurn Point.

An auxiliary coastguard spotted the beached whales while walking along a nearby cliff top on Tuesday afternoon.

By yesterday afternoon 27 of them were dead, and a veterinary surgeon put down a further seven.

As soon as it became known that people had been hacking the flesh of two of the whales the police said that the veterinary surgeon's injections, be-

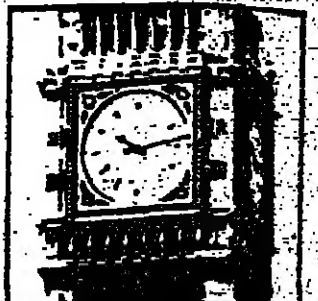
lieved to be heavy doses of barbiturate, made them unfit for eating by human beings or animals.

The whales stranded themselves along three or four miles of sandy shore near Holmpton. They ranged in length from six to 26 feet.

A spokesman for the Spurn Point coastguard said the whales had come ashore singly or in small groups.

It was hard to tell which were alive and which were dead. One had to get close to see the twitch of a fin or hear the rasping of air through the blowhole.

Theories for whales becoming stranded in groups include suggestions that their echolocation fails near beaches, or that the school's leader becomes beached and the others follow.



David McKie

When the dries turn drippy

THE time atop this column is approximately thirteen minutes past ten. This is not, however, the time at which it is written. Because of the usual exigencies of newspaper production, it inevitably tends to concentrate on the parliamentary day and week to neglect others which occur in the less glamorous reaches of the evening; for instance, the contribution made during the unemployment debate on Tuesday night by Mr Michael Forsyth, the new Conservative member for Stirling (or as Hansard, with one eye under a microscope, it is the member for Stirling).

Mr Forsyth is one of the products of the militant market school which has recently flourished on the windy shores of St Andrews. He is the sort of man whose ambition might be to be spoken of in the same breath as Dr Madsen Pirie.

In Tuesday's debate, not long after Mr Heath sat down, he made the most

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hard-line anti-public investment speech of the lot. Mr Lawson was ill-livered in comparison.

"It is staggering that the hardy illusion that it is somehow possible to create extra jobs through public expenditure changes continues to be put about by comparatively responsible people who once held high government office," he barked. "Public investment in whatever form may appear to create jobs, but in the long term is destructive more than it creates because of the resources it takes from the private sector."

Odd, then, that at Scottish question time yesterday Mr Forsyth was to be heard urging the Scottish Secretary to get cracking on the building of a bypass round Dunblane. In this some kind of plot to destroy the longest road of his constituents, Labour's Mr Harry Ewing, who sits for nearby Falkirk, had another explanation. "He needs it," Mr Ewing confided to the House, "to make a quick getaway."

Later in Scottish questions, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, the Conservative member for Perth and Kinross, asked a totally impenetrable question about the use of tape-recorded evidence in Scottish courts, of which he seems strongly to disapprove.

Mr Fairbairn-Solomon General for Scotland until he talked too much about a Glasgow rape case, which he submitted his resignation—something of a showman. In 1974, the year he entered Parliament, he listed his recreations in Who's Who as "making love, ends met, and people laugh." By 1975 he had substituted "Upheaving what's Right and demolishing what's Left."

He is also a considerable fop, often appearing in the House in exotic clothes of his own devising. Once Mr Wilson dismissed one of Mr Fairbairn's wigs as "quite simply by saying how much the whole House admired the Honourable Gentleman's Janger dressing gown."

Above all, he is said to be a brilliant and successful Scottish advocate, which makes it extremely sad that he so rarely seems to reproduce such brilliance in the House. On Monday night, again he neglected his own people, and Mr Ewing had substituted "Upheaving what's Right and demolishing what's Left."

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Royal Commission on road safety suggested

Raise motorway limit to 80mph, say MPs

By Geoff Andrews, Transport Correspondent

A motorway speed limit of 80 miles an hour, more rigid enforcement of road safety laws, and a standing Royal Commission to coordinate and examine road safety research are recommended in a report by the all-party Commons select committee on transport published yesterday.

The committee decided to recommend the 80 mph limit for an unspecified trial period, after what the chairman, Mr Harry Cowans (Lab, Tyne Bridge), yesterday described as the "very long deliberation". In doing so they were supported by evidence from the Association of Chief Police Officers, that speed limits were in a mass, unrealistic, and frequently unenforceable.

The association suggested that there was a case for an 80 mph limit on motorways. Mr Cowans said that it has been felt that giving cars a 10 mph advantage at least over other vehicles might go some way to stop convoys being built up, as had happened since the 1970s when speed limits were raised to 70 mph. It was not feasible to suggest lowering the limit again.

The committee report states: "It is not necessarily true to say that all motorists



Harry Cowans—speed a reality

are incapable of driving at 80-85 mph because, clearly, very many are doing just that with apparent complete safety."

It adds that arguments that a 70 mph limit "means in reality up to 80 mph can be travelled with impunity, therefore 80 mph would lead to 90 mph is not a proven fact. Such a belief has been engendered as much by the police, who see the present speed limit as unrealistic and therefore difficult to enforce, as by the motorists."

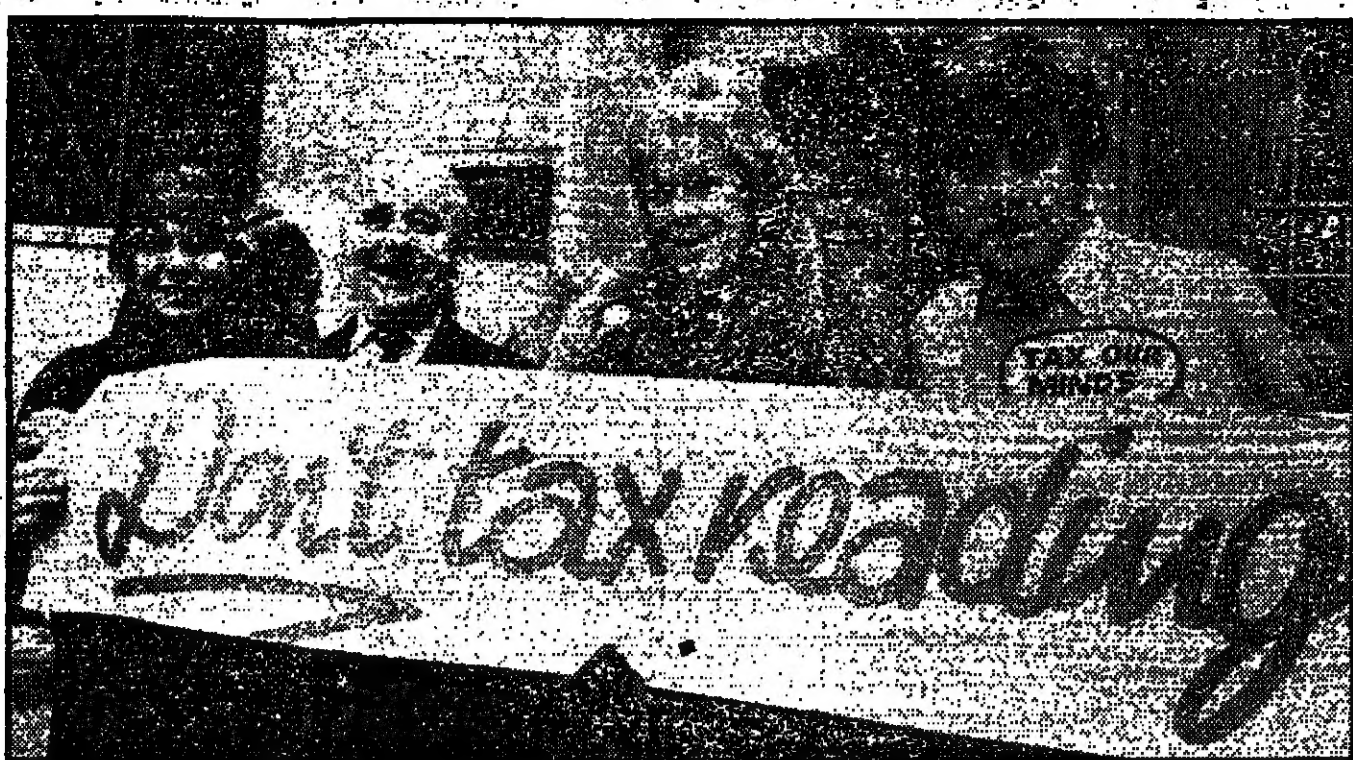
The 80 mph upper limit was being suggested for a trial period because there seemed little evidence that the speed limit on motorways was too high and because of the accident record of motorways compared to other roads.

On enforcement, the committee heard evidence that the conviction rate for motorists was about one in 20,000 journeys—that convictions for careless driving were about one in 50,000 journeys and that the probability of detection in a motorway offence was one in 7,500.

On top of this, police evidence had shown that recent manpower cutbacks had particularly affected traffic policing and the majority of forces had cut their traffic establishments. Not enough attention was being given to scientific aspects of road safety, the committee decided. It endorsed the idea put forward by another group of MPs for a Royal Commission on road safety.

The committee also recommends improvements in the driving test and motorcycle and bicycle training; a review of the threshold for drink and drive offences; better warnings on the effect of some drugs on driving ability; standardised speed limiters for coaches and lorries; rear seat belts; safety modifications to cars to mitigate injuries to pedestrians; and lighting throughout all motorways.

House of Commons Transport Committee Report on Road Safety; Stationery Office, £5.55.



Authors' message—Margaret Drabble, Hammond Innes, Antonia Fraser and Giles Brandreth outside the Royal Overseas League, where the rally was held. Picture by Graham Turner

Authors take hard line against VAT on books

THREE HUNDRED authors rallied in London yesterday to support the campaign against 15 per cent VAT being imposed on books, writes Nicholas de Jongh. From Sir Victor Pritchett, the president of the Society of Authors which organised the rally, to Margaret Drabble they outlined the likely consequences of the levy.

They said it would greatly limit the publication of first novels, new poetry, serious works of history, biography and scholarship. Book prices would have to rise by about 20 per cent, and this would mean that libraries, which have

already had to reduce the number of titles they buy yearly, would cut back further. The smaller publisher would find his livelihood threatened.

Ireland had repealed VAT on books. Italy had a tax of only 2 per cent, and other countries, from Norway to New Zealand, had only a nominal VAT rate.

Francis King, the novelist and critic, said that the large publisher would not produce the same kind of work as the small publisher, who might be driven out of existence by VAT.

He likened the levy to the window tax between the mid 17th and 18th centuries. That had been a tax on light, air and view. VAT on books would be similar in effect.

Viscount Macmillan, chairman of the Macmillan publishing house, told the writers that the only way to succeed was to influence Tory MPs. "You have got to try to hit dry, hardline Tory backwoodsmen where it hurts—in their constituencies," he said. He urged authors to write to their local MPs. Two hundred MPs, including 100 Conservatives have already signed an early day motion opposing the imposition of VAT on books.

Police to report on fatal oil rig blast

By Jean Stead

Police and inspectors from the Department of Energy flew to the Phillips Petroleum Glomar Arctic II rig in the North Sea yesterday to investigate two explosions in a ballast pump which left two dead.

The explosions on Tuesday night killed the chief engineer and his assistant, both Americans, and injured two others, who were airlifted by helicopter to hospital in Aberdeen. Forty-six men were evacuated to the sister rig and 37 are still on board.

Police will prepare a report on the cause of the explosion for the fatal accident inquiry to be held in Scotland. The job of the Department of Energy team is to ensure that all safety regulations laid down under the Government's licensing system have been observed.

The dead men were Mr John Traut, aged 33, of Ventura, California, the rig's chief engineer, and his assistant, Mr Mark Paradiso, aged 23, of New Jersey.

Mr Michael Simpson, aged 27, of Leicester, is under observation in hospital, but Mr Otto Brandt, aged 28, of Houston, Texas, was discharged after treatment. Mr Simpson said yesterday: "I did not hear a blast or anything. I was knocked over by it and then could not move my right side."

Gummer urged to tighten control of Tory students

By Andrew Moxam, Education Staff

Mr John Gummer was yesterday asked to impose tighter controls on the Federation of Conservative Students, whose rightwing militants tried to wreck last month's National Union of Students' conference in Blackpool.

A report to Mr Gummer by three leading Conservative students accuses FCS leaders of "seriously irresponsible behaviour", said Tory militants' tactics were "indistinguishable from those used by Trotskyists and damaged the good name of the party among students."

A pamphlet, The Gordon Liddy Guide to Disruption of the NUS Conference, was distributed at an FCS caucus, says the report. "The pamphlet stated: 'If there is a Trotskyist disruption always join in. It is always right and always makes sense.'"

Another document, with official FCS markings, said: "Some will say that we are here only to disrupt. This is entirely correct."

The report is signed by Mr Chris Davies, the only Conservative on the NUS executive; Mr Mike Hall, an FCS national committee member; and Mr Simon Nundy, chairman of London Conservative Students. All three are Conservative Student Unionists, members, in anti-extremist pressure group within FCS.

FCS is the Conservative party's official student wing. It receives financial support from central funds and its national chairman, Mr Marc Henri Glendinning, receives a salary from the party.

The Conservative Party investigated FCS in 1981 after allegations of vote rigging at its conference.

Mr Gummer was given four recommendations: to stop FCS attending NUS conference if it intends merely to cause disruption; to ask FCS officers to account for "disruptive" behaviour; to consider whether more party control is needed of FCS officers; and to ensure greater scrutiny of party funds used by FCS.

Farmers face £130 pay claim

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

Farmworkers are to demand a minimum wage of £130 for a 35-hour week after this week's government announcement that farmers' net incomes rose by 22 per cent last year.

Mr Alex Kitson, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday that other TGWU members would be asked to support the claim if the farmworkers show willingness to strike for the first time.

These would include milk tanker drivers, animal feed delivery men, and dockers. The farmworkers' minimum rate is £83.80 for a 40-hour week, but overtime and increased rates for skilled craftsmen bring the average pay to £123.

"Farmworkers have always been downtrodden and this year we will be educating them that they have got to fight to have their importance recognised," said Mr Alex Kitson. The TGWU took over the farmworkers' union two years ago.

Attempts last year to spread industrial action in support of a "substantial" pay claim were a failure, and the settlement approved by the Agricultural Wages Board was worth 4.5 per cent.



Alex Kitson

Potholers' watery success

By Martin Wainwright

A TEAM of young British potholers, led by a 19-year-old, reached a point of one of the world's most difficult caves, the underground river Nare system on the island of New Britain in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Tim Allen, a bricklayer from Malvern, drilled a final bolt above a vortex of white water boiling into a sump 1100 feet below the tropical rain forest.

The 11-strong Unnamed River Expedition, launched from Sheffield last October, negotiated a chain of rapids called Apocalypses. Now which defeated a French party in 1980. But disappointment lay a quarter of a mile beyond where the Nare plunged into the sump at the rate of 20 tons of water per second.

The cavers reached the Nare by abseiling down a bell-shaped shaft, carrying pocket air extinguishers in case their ropes overheat. They camped underground, surrounded by fruit bats and fireflies and wearing earplugs to counter the incessant roar of the rapids.

"We wore crash helmets as well one night, after a rock fall in the shaft just by our camp," said Mr Stephen Gough, an economics teacher at a Sheffield comprehensive.

Several members of the party narrowly escaped allowing their trawlers of the underground river by overhead ropes, fired across the Nare at several points by a compressed air gun.

Mr Gough said that the expedition had discovered and charted another large cave in the Nare area, and would make a full report to the Royal Geographical Society which helped to sponsor the £65,000 venture.

Ex-officer's flat burgled

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The home of a former naval commander, who worked at fleet headquarters at Northwood, outside London, during the Falklands conflict was broken into last month, it was disclosed yesterday.

The incident, has been reported to West Mercia police who are investigating the matter. Miss Hilary Murrell, during a break-in last year. Her nephew, Mr Robert Green, also worked at Northwood during the conflict.

The break-in at the flat in St Albans of Mr Peter Hurst occurred on December 20.

Mr Hurst said his flat had been searched carefully but no valuables had been taken.

Hertfordshire police said they were treating the break-in as a normal crime, one of a number in the same neighbourhood recently.

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Added Sugar (Sucrose)	6.0g	4.3g

TODAY'S TESCO

Falklanders give unanimous backing to new constitution

Thatcher giving islanders 'veto on negotiations'

By James Naughtie

The Prime Minister was accused last night of seeking to give the Falklanders a veto on future negotiations over the islands by unconstitutional means.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, wrote to Mrs Thatcher to protest against the reported intention to enshrine the islanders' right to self-determination in the new Falklands constitution by means of an Order in Council.

Dr Owen said it was quite wrong to use the procedure of an order to make such a change which effectively gave UK citizens in the islands the right of veto over negotiations conducted on their behalf by a future government answerable to Parliament.

He said: "We have never given a right of veto to the people of Hong Kong nor to

Leader comment, page 12

the people of Gibraltar. I believe it to be profoundly wrong in principle to give such a constitutional provision for the Falkland Islands. It is also constitutionally improper to do so in an Order in Council which is not amendable. It will be seen as slamming the door on any future negotiation with the Argentines."

The Order is also to be used to implement the decision to separate the legal and administrative arrangements relating to the Falklands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The proposals to amend the Falklands constitution have won unanimous approval from the Falkland Island members of the Legislative Council.

Introducing the constitution to the legislature in Port Stanley, the Falklands' civil commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, told members that Mrs Thatcher in consultation with the Foreign

Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had carefully considered the islanders' wishes and had agreed that the islanders' rights to self-determination should be enshrined in the new constitution.

This could be done by the incorporation within the constitution of a reference to Article One of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1956 and ratified by the British Government in 1976.

"The islanders' right to self-determination is now protected long into the future," said Councillor Tony Blake, who represents East and West Falklands. Elected members of the legislature feel that this move ensures that they must be consulted should the British Government open future talks with the Argentine Government on sovereignty.

The Foreign Office has also backed down on plans to divorce the Falklands from its dependencies of South Georgia and the South Sandwich group. The islanders had expressed their fears to the Foreign Office that under previous proposals, Britain might have the sovereignty of the Falklands with Argentina while retaining the Antarctic dependencies.

However, a constitutional amendment now states that there should be a commissioner for South Georgia and South Sandwich, "who shall be the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falkland Islands."

Another proposal calls for the abolition of the military commissioner's title. Since the 1982 conflict, the Commander, British Forces, has held this role and shared authority with the civil commissioner. Under the new Constitution the position will lapse when the present commander, Major General Peter de la Billiere, completes his 18-month tour in August.

Euro-MP blames dysentery on poverty

By Sarah Besley

The European Commission has been asked to investigate outbreaks of dysentery in northern England. Euro-MPs claim that increasing poverty resulting from unemployment is to blame.

Bradford, in West Yorkshire, had a big increase in the number of cases reported last year, affecting in particular eight housing estates. In one of them, the post-war Holmwood estate of 2,900 dwellings, 261 cases were identified, most of them schoolchildren.

The West Yorkshire Labour Euro-MP Dr Barry Seal said yesterday that health officials in his constituency had been notified of 2,322 cases in the nine months to the end of September last year. During the whole of 1983, only 467 cases, less than a fifth of the 1984 total were reported.

The national figures for the first week of December last year were 7,303 cases—up more than a quarter from the 5,769 cases recorded in 1983.

Dr Seal says that the increase is due to poverty and unemployment. He has put down a motion at the European Parliament which has gone to the public health committee.

Last spring, in Scunthorpe, Humberside, there was a dysentery outbreak which affected about 400 people. Although it began in a middle to higher middle class Catholic girls school, Mr Ian Cameron, the principal environmental health officer for the area, said it was most difficult to check in poorer areas.

He said: "When it spread, it was harder to control and contain in more disadvantaged areas because of home conditions and the need for children to be sent to school, whatever state they were in because parents were working."

Dr Ranjit Bandaranayake, medical officer for environmental health in Bradford, confirmed that there had been a tremendous increase in cases of dysentery, with over 1,300 last year and a further 80 cases since December.

He said: "One of the more important factors must be the seasonal pattern of cold and damp weather increases it. But other environmental factors like housing and social conditions must play a part — and nutrition as well."

Freemason check puts council bar on Tories

By Michael Morris

Labour-controlled Tameside Council in Greater Manchester has become the first local authority to ban councillors from voting or sitting on committees because they failed to declare whether they are Freemasons or members of other secret societies.

The three Conservative councillors concerned can still speak and vote at full council meetings, but are effectively prohibited from helping to formulate policy on committees.

They include the leader of the Conservative opposition, Mr Colin Grantham, who declines to say whether he belongs to a secret organisation such as the Freemasons, because he claims that forcing councillors to sign a declaration is an infringement of personal liberty.

All of the 57 councillors were given three months to make declarations after the council changed its standing orders because of allegations of unfair influence from masons at work in town halls.

The last Nalco annual conference decided that council workers should not be compelled to make such declarations.

But the conference also voted for a national inquiry into the relationship between council workers and councillors.



Billy Connolly shows part of the split brake drum said to have caused the accident.

Comic cleared over crash

THE Scots comedian Billy Connolly, was cleared yesterday of any wrongdoing in a charge which followed a motorway accident in which he was injured.

Magistrates at Weston

TUC's first step to bar rebel unions

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

TUC leaders yesterday embarked on their first tentative moves towards suspending two of their largest affiliates, the electricians and the engineers, for accepting government money for ballots.

The process will be long and complicated and the final break may never come. However, at a meeting of the TUC's employment committee yesterday, union leaders decided to refer the matter to the finance and general purposes committee if the two unions move to claim money back from the Government after the February 4 deadline.

The finance and general purposes committee is the TUC's senior body and is usually given the task of administering unions if they flout TUC rules. Members of the employment committee adopted the policy by 12 votes to seven.

They rejected a suggestion by Mr Moss Evans (Transport Workers) and Mr David Barnett (General, Municipal and Boilermakers), by 13 votes to six, that Mr Newman Willis, TUC general secretary, should report the two unions' disobedience to next week's meeting of the general council.

It could be some months before the TUC has to decide formally to suspend the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

By that time this year's congress will be approaching, and with it the chance for unions generally to review their policies towards the Government's industrial relations legislation, including state help for balloting.

The electricians yesterday made a proposal to assist the TUC in its dilemma by suggesting that the Government should pay the money for the Government's industrial relations legislation, including state help for balloting.

Mr Eric Hammond, the union's general secretary, told the employment committee that if congress did not change its policy, the electricians would at least consider the matter.

Mr Hammond's critics on the committee said afterwards, however, that he made no response when asked if he would be prepared to leave more than £200,000 so far not claimed with the TUC. They also said that he threatened to take the TUC to court if EETPU was suspended.

The question of whether to hold a special conference of congress was left in the balance and will be reviewed next month. This was largely due to the fact that insufficient replies had been received by the TUC on a survey of unions on the effects of the Government's industrial relations legislation.

Most of the 16 unions to have replied said that they have not been affected directly by the legislation. The TUC is still awaiting replies from many of the large unions, including the Transport and General Workers and the AUEW.

Transmitters plan vetoed

The BBC has been refused permission to build six new World Service radio transmitters, which it was feared would affect delicate electrical stage equipment used by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The application to build the transmitters with 300ft towers at Beasley, near the RSC's Stratford-upon-Avon headquarters, was rejected yesterday by the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin.

Arrangements for their orderly evacuation should be made in fire practice, according to a guide published yesterday by the RSCPA education department, after a lengthy survey.

It points out some of the hazards involved when animals are kept in schools. The results can be suffering and distress, not least to the children for whose benefit a variety of beasts have been brought into schools in the first place.

Teachers must be aware that animals, both mammals and invertebrates (eg. locusts) and associated materials and bedding can sometimes produce distressing allergic sensitisation," it says.

"This can take the form of running and sneezing eyes, runny nose, rashes, hay fever, asthma-like attacks. This is one reason why animals should be housed permanently in classrooms."

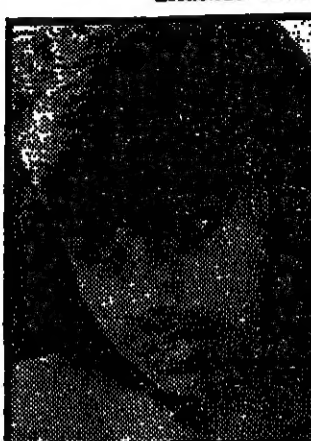
It suggests that regular handlers of animals should be immunised against tetanus and teachers should be aware of two common infections, ringworm and salmonella, which can be transmitted to children by mammals.

Caravans can give rise to quite different problems. Live feeding with vertebrates, including the consumption of "kiss by snakes, should not be permitted," the RSCPA says firmly.

East End Asians bear the brunt of growth in racist attacks



Racialists leave their mark on a council house in Tower Hamlets allocated to an Asian family and white youths who attacked Mukth Miah (left and right below) scarred the 14-year-old for life with a knife



Racial harassment and assaults are on the increase in Britain. Aileen Ballantyne tells how Asians in the London borough of Tower Hamlets are living in fear

THE MOST sustained and organised racial attacks in recent history are being carried out against Asian families in the East End of London, according to information gathered by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The number of incidents throughout the country has also been growing in the past few months, according to reports made by community relations councils to the government-financed CRE. Incidents have ranged from serious, racially-motivated physical attacks to constant low-grade harassment of Asian families in their homes.

Excrement has been put through letter boxes and Asian women and children are afraid to go out of their houses because of stone throwing and shouts of "Go Home, Paki" from large groups of white youths.

One of the worst affected areas is Tower Hamlets in east London, where over 20 per cent of the population are Asian. The Guardian has confirmed with Tower Hamlets police that the Asian community and the police have in dealing with the problem.

In one of these incidents, Mukth Miah, aged 14, was kicked unconscious by about 12 white youths. As he lay on the ground some of the youths slashed his back with a Stanley knife. He spent five days in hospital and has been left with a large and permanent scar.

Police arrested three youths and charged them with the attack. All three were found guilty. In an extreme case such as

this there is little difficulty in applying the law if police can track down the perpetrators. But such cases are only the most obvious manifestation of the problem.

A recent Home Office study showed that Asians were 50 times more likely to be physically attacked than whites. The figures were based only on attacks reported to police.

Ms Sedhana Ghose, one of two Asian researchers employed to live in Tower Hamlets and monitor racial harassment for TV's TV Eye programme Racial Outlaws, being shown tonight, said she interviewed 25 Bangladeshi families in their native language. Nine out of 10 had experienced racial harassment, from bricks through windows to lighted rags put through letter boxes.

"There is a great deal of fear among such families," she said, particularly if you knock on the door at a time when only the women and children are at home.

The second incident which the Guardian confirmed with Tower Hamlets police illustrates the fear of harassment in the Asian community and the police have in dealing with the problem.

A Bengali family, already the victims of racial harassment in one part of Tower Hamlets, went to look at a council house on the Estate in Tower Hamlets, in an attempt to move away from their problem. It became known in the locality that an Asian family were planning on moving in. The police arrived and the house was surrounded by racist graffiti. A pair of pig's trot-

ters, inscribed with the initials "NF" were hanging over the door of the new home.

Police failed in their attempts to track down the perpetrators.

Police figures show that the number of racial incidents in Tower Hamlets has increased from 230 in 1983 to 370 last year. Their figures are recorded on the basis of "victim perception."

In other words, if an Asian shop is vandalised and the owner believes that they motive is racial the report goes down in the racial incidents file. Police have succeeded in confirming only 110 such incidents, however.

Arrests can be made only in confirmed incidents, and arrests were made in only 50 of the 110 confirmed incidents in Tower Hamlets.

Police critics, such as the Tower Hamlets-based Community Alliance for Police

Accountability, would argue that police are failing to meet the needs of the Asian community they serve.

One problem lies in the nature of the attacks recorded by police. Seventy-six per cent of the 370 last year were recorded as common assaults.

Commander Malcolm Sullivan of Tower Hamlets police said that in these cases people were advised to take out a private prosecution. Police would give evidence for a family taking out such a prosecution, he said, but there was no record of this having happened last year.

Commander Sullivan also said that many of the attacks on Asian families were made by juveniles.

Whatever the reasons for the low rate of police arrests, it is not surprising that large sections of the Asian community now feel that the law has failed them.

Jobless scheme rule changes 'illegal'

By Malcolm Dean

The Government will almost certainly be taken to court by the Equal Opportunities Commission for its new rules governing the community programme, the country's second largest special programme for the unemployed, on the grounds that its discrimination against married women is illegal under the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act.

The changes in the rules are expected to shut out some of the 20,000 married women who are at present on the scheme, which has 130,000 places.

The commission believes that the changes, which restrict eligibility to those receiving unemployment or supplementary benefits — for which most married women would not qualify — are in breach of the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act.

Women are not excluded by the words of the new rules but indirect discrimination, if also illegal under the act. Only unemployed married women with unemployed husbands or women who pay full national insurance benefit — a small minority — will be eligible under the new rules.

Under section one of the Sex Discrimination Act an agency which applies a condition equally to both sexes but which can only be complied with by a small minority of one sex is guilty of indirect sex discrimination.

Lady Platt, chairman of the commission met Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, in December but was unable to persuade him to change the rules. The department wrote to the commission this week, claiming that the new rules are legal.

Over a dozen agencies or individual women applicants have written to the commission protesting against the changes.

The commission will be able to select any of these cases to challenge the Government.

The case will initially go before an industrial tribunal. Appeals can be heard by the Employment Appeals Tribunal, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords.

Community groups have accused the Government of introducing the changes to increase the unemployment figures. Twenty thousand fewer married women on the scheme means another 20,000 places for unemployed men.

Most of the unemployed married women replaced would not show up on the unemployment register, since they do not register.

Mr Robert Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool, West Derby, and one of several MPs who have taken up the issue, was told by Mr Morrison that the changes were being introduced as a cost-effective measure.

In a letter to the MP, the minister said that places should be reserved for those most in need, both of a job and of financial help.

A female civil servant, Ms Sara Holmes, successfully took the Home Office to court under the act last year and required the department to allow her to work part-time in her executive post.

School is out for hamsters

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff

THE CLASSROOM sick in a school, where hamsters, guinea pigs, or chickens — but not, it is to be hoped, any great crested warty newt — will soon be joining in school fire drills if new guidelines are accepted.

Arrangements for their orderly evacuation should be made in fire practice, according to a guide published yesterday by the RSCPA education department, after a lengthy survey.

It points out some of the hazards involved when animals are kept in schools. The results can be suffering and distress, not least to the children for whose benefit a variety of beasts have been brought into schools in the first place.

Teachers must be aware that animals, both mammals and invertebrates (eg. locusts) and associated materials and bedding can sometimes produce distressing allergic sensitisation," it says.

"This can take the form of running and sneezing eyes, runny nose, rashes, hay fever, asthma-like attacks. This is one reason why animals should be housed permanently in classrooms."

It suggests that regular handlers of animals should be immunised against tetanus and teachers should be aware of two common infections, ringworm and salmonella, which can be transmitted to children by mammals.

Caravans can give rise to quite different problems. Live feeding with vertebrates, including the consumption of "kiss by snakes, should not be permitted," the RSCPA says firmly.

Nurse shortage stopped hot meal for elderly

By James Lewis

Elderly hospital patients were asked yesterday to have gone without cooked breakfast on two of the coldest days of the year because there were not enough nurses on duty to serve meals.

The allegation was made by Mr Don Price, assistant head cook at Prestwich Hospital, Manchester, and National Union of Public Employees' shop steward.

He said that sausages, beans, meat, tomatoes, potato cakes and porridge had all been thrown into the hospital wastebins yesterday and on Tuesday, and that 30 elderly and mentally ill people in Farworth ward had been served cereal instead.

Mr Price said that when he asked why hot food had been returned, he was told that be-

cause of staff shortages on the ward patients were woken up two hours later than usual and served cereal on a rota basis.

The North-west Regional Health Authority declined to comment yesterday but the Conservative MP for Bury South, Mr David Sumberg, said he had been told that an internal investigation was taking place.

Mr Sumberg said patients on Fleetwood Ward were given sandwiches instead of an evening meal on Saturday, because of staff shortages.

The hospital administrator, Mr Bill Sang, said that although the hospital was suffering from financial constraints the matter was being treated as one of great concern.

"We have more than 1,000 patients here and employ 750 nurses."

Police 'forced confession'

A former policeman told a jury yesterday that Ministry of Defence police offered him and his family a new identity if he would confess to a stolen ammunition racket.

Anthony Chapman, aged 39, claimed at Chester Crown Court that MoD police accused him of selling ammunition stolen from a Cheshire ordnance factory to sources who would use it "to blow away squaddies in Northern Ireland."

Chapman, of Foundry Square, Nanton Green, Stoke-on-Trent, denies three charges of handling more than 28,000 rounds of ammunition and a rocket launcher stolen by Wesley Harris, the quality controller at the factory at Alsager.

He said he only confessed to knowing it was stolen when police used "KGB pressure" during six days in a police cell. Inspector Joe Nixon threatened him with prosecution under anti-terrorist laws

and promised him a 15-year gaol sentence, he claimed, and told him that his wife would be arrested and his children taken into care if he did not cooperate.

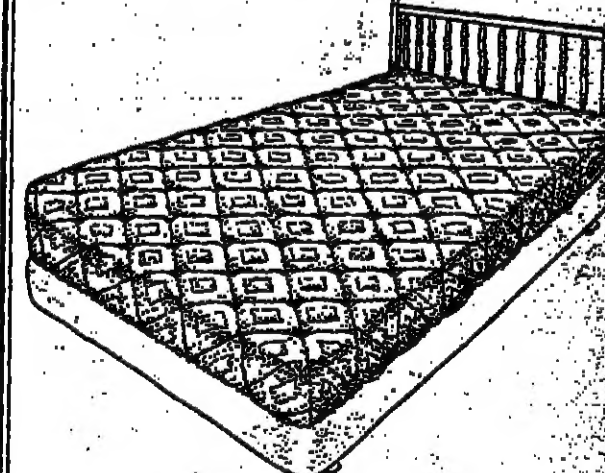
Chapman said he had bought ammunition legitimately from the Radvay Green factory where Harris worked — through the National Rifle Association for his local rifle and pistol club.

He became suspicious of the deals in April, 1983, when he got a telephone call from someone else offering him current issue ammunition from the factory for between £100 and £110 per thousand rounds. He stopped dealing with Harris after that.

Chapman said that his ammunition register, which contained details of all transactions, including those with Harris, had been taken by the MoD police and had since "mysteriously vanished."

The trial continues today.

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THE DAY IN POLITICS

Jenkin's grant puts fire into shire MPs

RATES

By Alan Travis

The Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, met with shire council leaders yesterday when he opened a Commons debate on this year's rate support grant settlement, despite a protest that he was "ignoring" the shire council's concerns about the system of grant, holdbacks and spending targets.

Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr Geoffrey Rippon and a clutch of other Conservatives rose during the Environment Secretary's speech to complain about the effect of the RSG settlement on Tory-controlled shire councils.

Mr Patrick Cormack (Staffordshire S) angrily reminded the minister: "There are some Conservative councils like my own who have suffered deeply from what has happened."

Mr Charles Morrison (Devon) told Mr Jenkin that all Conservatives from shire counties would support him in his desire to abolish targets in 1986/87 and in the battles he would have with the Treasury to achieve it. He added: "But if they are not abolished, or even relaxed, the situation will become impossible. Next year will be the crunch year; services will have to be severely cut."

Sir Ian Gilmour (Amersham) also demanded the abolition of spending targets for councils, as did Mr Peter Horden (Hornham), who said that West Sussex was one of the lowest spenders in the country, but now faced tough over-spending penalties.

The anger of the shire county Tories arises from their feeling that Mr Jenkin has failed to deliver on a promise delivered last year that he would treat them leniently at the start of the new system of the RSG which had penalised them for under-spending.

Mr Jenkin said that this year those who had budgeted to spend more than 0.75 per cent below their grant-related expenditure amounts this year can increase spending by at least 4.5 per cent in line with inflation.

"I have therefore been able to set targets for low-spending authorities which fulfil undertakings I gave to the House in last year's debate."

"I recognise the force of the point put to me by a number of low-spending authorities that whereas they can manage to live with their targets for 1985/86, they nevertheless face real difficulties for 1986/87. I have this may be helpful."

"First, I repeat I should like to be able to abandon targets and holdbacks altogether. But much depends, first, on



Mr Morrison: "Next year will be crunch year"

the level of local authorities' expenditure in 1985/86 and second, on the alternative pressures I can bring to bear to achieve delivery of the Government's public expenditure plans. I am considering this urgently, but there is nothing more I can say to the House today on that."

The current settlement had been worked out on the assumption that targets would remain in 1986/87.

Outlining the Government's spending plans for local authorities in 1985-86, Mr Jenkin said the total grant figure of £11.8 billion was about the same as the current year. "If local authorities budget to meet their targets next year the average increase at rate-payer level should be even lower than this year's 5 1/2 per cent."

Mr Jenkin said: "Doubtless, we shall again be told of the services which have to be slashed. All the evidence suggests that this is nothing but wild exaggeration."

Dr John Cunningham, the Shadow Environment Secretary, said this year's settlement showed that the Prime Minister had "betrayed the ratepayers by doubling the rates and by cutting on her promises, made twice to abolish rates."

Cutting the grants to councils to only 48.7 per cent of their spending meant harsher financial penalties and change in the principles underlying the Whitehall-imposed targets.

He quoted the example of Stevenage, which for three years had held its rate level and then cut it by 7.2 per cent last year, which now faced the loss of £500,000 in grant because of changes in the RSG system. Conservative-controlled

Sevenoaks now faced a rate rise of 20 per cent because of its grant being reduced from £2.054 million to £1.076.

Real cuts were being faced by 65 out of 77 metropolitan councils, 11 out of 39 shire county councils, and 113 out of 296 district councils. Berkshire was set to lose £10.4 million and Oxfordshire, £10 million because of a minuscule increase in their arbitrary targets.

The Secretary of State will not listen to the criticism and stagers into the quagmire of his own creation. Government policy is mean, vindictive, and incompetent."

Mr Michael Shersby (C. Uxbridge) said he would be unable to support the government in the vote. His local Tory-controlled authority of Hillingdon had produced an excellent performance since coming to power six years ago, with spending increasing little more than the rate of inflation.

Mr Winston Churchill (C. Davyhulme) bitterly denounced the settlement as a kick in the teeth for low-spending councils and said he, too, would be unable to support the Government in the vote.

His own local authority of Trafford stood to lose £3 million in rate support grant this year, yet it had followed the government spending guidelines more closely than any other borough.

No time for EEC police inquiry

MINISTERS are unlikely to cooperate with an inquiry by members of the European Parliament into the policing of the miners' strike in Britain.

Although the Government takes the view that it cannot stop the MEPs coming to Britain to carry out their inquiry it is seen as an interference in a domestic issue.

The Prime Minister is expected to be pressed about the constitutional questions raised when she answers questions in the Commons today. She is likely to leave the MEPs with no doubt that, as far as the Government is concerned, they have no locus for their inquiry in Britain.

In view of this the Home Office and other departments involved in the dispute are not expected to help the inquiry, although nothing will be done to prevent it taking place. It is not expected that the Government would sanction interviews with police officers unless this was agreed by chief constables.

Some Conservatives believe that the inquiry will demonstrate that chaos of police brutality are unfounded.

Union chief eyes top Labour job

By Martin Linton

A surprise last-minute candidate for the job of general secretary of the Labour Party may be the head of the Post Office Engineering Union, Mr Bryan Stanley, who has a reputation as one of the most effective speakers on the party's right wing.

He has come under strong pressure to throw his hat into the ring in the last few days as a heavyweight contender who would attract sufficient trade union support to stop the appointment of Mr Larry Whitty, a leftwinger who has the support of Mr Neil Kinnock.

Mr Whitty, who is 41, is the head of research at the General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union and is likely to win a number of trade union votes, including the two representatives of his own union, unless

there is a strong trade union candidate to oppose him.

Mr Stanley will have to decide by the close of applications tomorrow and the main encouragement is expected to come from senior figures on Labour's right wing, such as Mr Roy Hattersley, who feel that the party needs the firm hand of an experienced trade union leader to guide it through the minefields of the next two or three years.

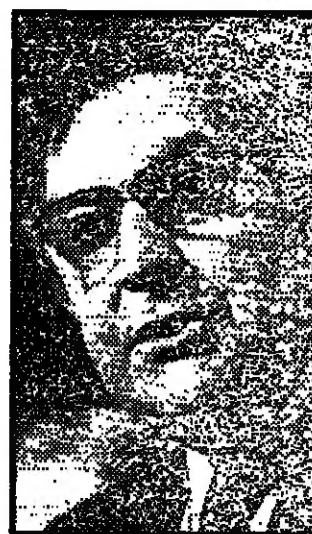
Mr Stanley was once the main organiser of the right on Labour's national executive, a role which was later taken over by his union colleague, Mr John Golding, when Mr Stanley joined the general council of the TUC.

But he has proved a powerful speaker at Labour Party conferences on issues such as privatisation and telephone tapping which has broadened his support, and he has always

taken a closer interest in the Labour Party's organisation than most members of the national executive.

The other contenders for the job, apart from Mr Whitty, are the party's Scottish Secretary, Mrs Helen Liddell, and its assistant national agent, Mrs Joyce Gould. If Mr Stanley does not stand it seems likely to develop into a battle between Mr Whitty and Mrs Liddell, who will take most of the rightwing votes. But Mrs Liddell, who is 33, is unlikely to command as much support as Mr Stanley.

Mr Alex Ferry, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, has pulled out although he would have attracted strong support among the trade unions and the right. He lost by only one vote to Mr Jim Mortimer three years ago. Mr John Garrett,



Mr Stanley—heavyweight contender

Lobby journalists move to lift the veil

By James Naughtie

The Parliamentary Lobby Journalists, the 100-year-old organisation of Westminster correspondents, last night took a step towards ending some of the legendary secrecy attending its operations.

Lobby members agreed unanimously at a meeting in the Commons put to a ballot proposals which would allow some meetings with ministers, party leaders and other

sources to be conducted openly, without the all-embracing rule against identifying sources.

Traditionally, almost all collective lobby meetings have been conducted on an unattributable basis. The plan was to put to ballot proposals a more flexible system, allowing the system should be open to public scrutiny."

There is no plan, however, for daily on the record briefings by Downing Street spokesmen as there are at the White House.

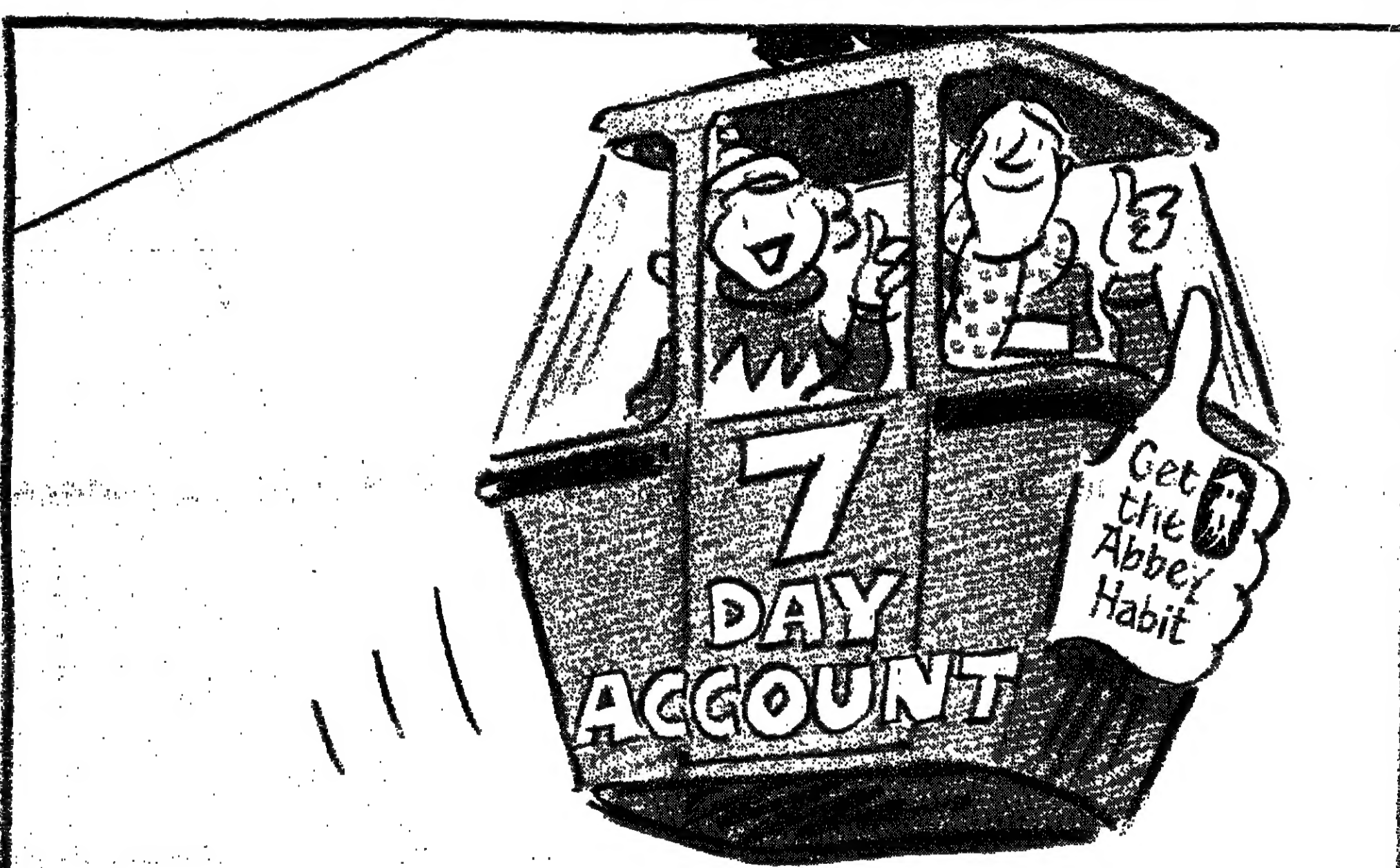
ministers have to be protected by the agreed confidentiality, but say that "an aura of secrecy about lobby practice is unnecessary."

It adds: "While nothing must be done to betray non-attributable sources, the existence and general working of the system should be open to public scrutiny."

There is no plan, however, for daily on the record briefings by Downing Street spokesmen as there are at the White House.

If the plan is approved, many more on the record changes will take place. The working of the system had been the subject of much debate among journalists, politicians and Whitehall officials.

The proposed reform would be the first change in the system since the incident a decade ago when a public row between the journalists and Mr Joe Haines, then Press Secretary in Downing Street, led to a brief suspension in regular contacts.



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SPECIAL BRANCH

'Tighter guidelines needed'

By Stephen Cook

THE RECENTLY published guidelines to police forces about the activity of the Special Branch failed to give a precise and useful definition of subversive activity, Mr John Alderson, the former Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, told the Commons Home Affairs committee's inquiry into the Special Branch yesterday.

"The guidelines define subversion as anything threatening the safety or well-being of the state," he said. "You are

secretive and that training for its officers should be improved to impart greater sensitivity. In his experience, he said, some records kept by the Special Branch amounted to infringement of civil liberty and a high proportion of record keeping was inappropriate, useless or out of date. The Special Branch in his area spent part of their time carrying out requests from the security services, some of which would bypass him, and it was quite possible for Special Branch officers to carry out illegal break-ins without a chief constable's knowledge."

Mr Alderson also said that detailed reports on industrial action are filed by Special Branch detectives daily — and sometimes passed to the Home Office.

"A daily report on all industrial disputes — sent to police headquarters — and in appropriate cases to the Home Office," he said. "It goes into what the dispute is about, how many people are involved, the size and number of pickets and whether there was any violence. That type of report would not go into personal details on individuals — that would be in a separate classified report."

The work was done under guidelines requiring monitoring of potentially troublesome industrial action.

HOUSING

Tory MPs protest

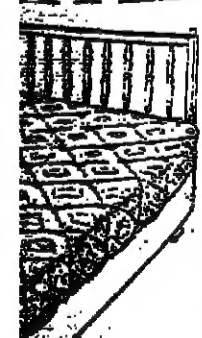
FORTY Conservative MPs yesterday signed an early day motion protesting at the Government's decision not to allow local authorities to spend about £1 billion of their capital receipts from the sale of council houses. The motion is sponsored by six MPs including the former Cabinet minister, Mr Geoffrey Rippon and Mr Francis Pym.

Among those who have already signed the motion are Mr Mark Carlisle, a former Education Secretary. The motion notes the need to create real jobs.

Correction

MR John Lee, the Conservative MP for Pendle, did not vote against the Water (Fluoridation) Bill in the Commons as stated in yesterday's Guardian. Mr Michael Hancock (SDP) was wrongly included in the list of Tory MPs who opposed the Bill.

FFER



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size.

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the 127x198 size

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and, please, keep

Guard

NEWS BRIEF

q hits 'val get'

aid yesterday its...
stacked and hit...
Iranian oil terminal...
Island in the Gulf...
was no immediate...
ion of the attack...
pping and salvage...
the Gulf.

ashes

used rubber bullets...
gas in clashes with...
this in a fresh wave...
in various parts of...
Iran yesterday.

ott call

mbassadors in Brus...
mended yesterday...
rab League the boy...
the Belgian airline...
ropean Airways that...
Ethiopian Jews to...
diplomatic source...
Belgian news agency...
the company, that...
about 7,000 Falasha...
dan to Israel its...
over the past two...
was picked for the...
because it is on good...
with both the sub...
and Israeli...
nts.—AP.

debunked

doses of vitamin C...
re cancer and ear...
les claiming that it...
rink tumours were...
a team of Mayo...
researchers reported...
in the New Eng...
Journal of Medicine...
Dr Mervin and his col...
in Boston found...
C performed no...
an dummy medica...
patients with can...
the colon and rect...
ter.

h at sea

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n from a merchant...
shed on the vessel...
s crewmen and ten...
eventh missing and...
1 dead. authorities...
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hed and started a...
ard the Asia...
a Panamanian...
d vessel, as the ship...
autical miles north...
.—AP.

embered

s, chopped off the...
about six passengers...
robbed a Calcutta...
in north-eastern...
ited News of India...
yesterday. The...
dressed their way...
F and Chandrapur...
in Uttar Pradesh...
robbed more than...
angers of cash and...
.—AP.

murders

People have died...
round of political...
near Ayacucho...
reals reported yes...
Judicial authorities...
found nine bodies...
gas, 25 miles to the...
st. Hooded gunmen...
Indian peasants in...
22 miles to the...
ry said.—Reuter.

ch to go

ERMAN will blow...
heran church at the...
all to improve the...
rds' field of fir...
Communist barrier...
the police said yes...
The neo-Gothic...
Reconciliation has...
1894 to seat 1,000...
rs.—AP.

s escape

exist rebels who...
ed to death two...
in Mozambique on...
scaped into South...
the Maputo news...
oficias said yester...

tour

ee and Princess of...
to visit the state...
in Australia dur...
er and November...
ark its 150th ann...
they will also visit

ty confirmed

NAL Court of AP...
Khartoum has con...
he death sentence...
a Muslim cop...
heresy and oppos...
to implementation of...
in Sudan, the...
ident disclosed yes...
AP.

rak visit

NT Mubarak of...
yesterday in Athens...
a two-day official...
ch. Greek officials...
terlined to improv...
relations.

OVERSEAS NEWS

General briefs community leaders amid violence fears

Israel 'should not try to stop pullout massacres'

Tel Aviv: The general...
charge... of Israel's military...
withdrawal from Lebanon says...
the army should not intervene...
to stop any massacres among...
Lebanese factions.

General Orr, the army's...
northern commander, made the...
statement when he briefed...
community leaders in northern...
Israel.

Referring to the risk of...
massacres when Israeli troops...
leave, General Orr said: "I...
don't know what will happen...
in Sidon after we pull out. But...
I want the problem to be...
(Lebanese President) Amin...
Gemayel." I will not recom...
mend we intervene if there...
will be acts of massacre in the...
areas we leave."

Army officers fear that two...
communities are particularly...
vulnerable—Christians in the...
Kharroub region, just north of...
the present Israeli frontline...
and Palestinians in Sidon's Ain...
al-Hilweh refugee camp.

Under a three-phase plan...
adopted by the Cabinet, the...
army will leave the Sidon area...
within five weeks when it...
pulls back in the western sector...
of southern Lebanon to a...
new line nearer the Israeli...
frontier.

The Israeli Prime Minister...
Mr Peres, has pledged that Is...
rael will do its best to ensure...
an orderly, bloodless with...
drawal. During the second...
phase of the plan, Israel will...
withdraw its units in the...
Beka's Valley in eastern...
Lebanon.

Officers in the Beka's said...
this week that there were com...
munal tensions and a danger...
that old feuds would break out...
when the Israelis leave.

At present, they said, there...
was a loose alliance between...
Druze and Sunni Muslim com...
munities and another between...
Christians and Shi'ite Muslims...
in the villages.

Israel's withdrawal plan and...
far unsuccessfully, to accept...
United Nations' peacekeepers...
in the areas it will vacate...
Israel meanwhile warned yes...
—AP.

Boycott of Cairo book fair

From Kathryn Davies...
in Cairo

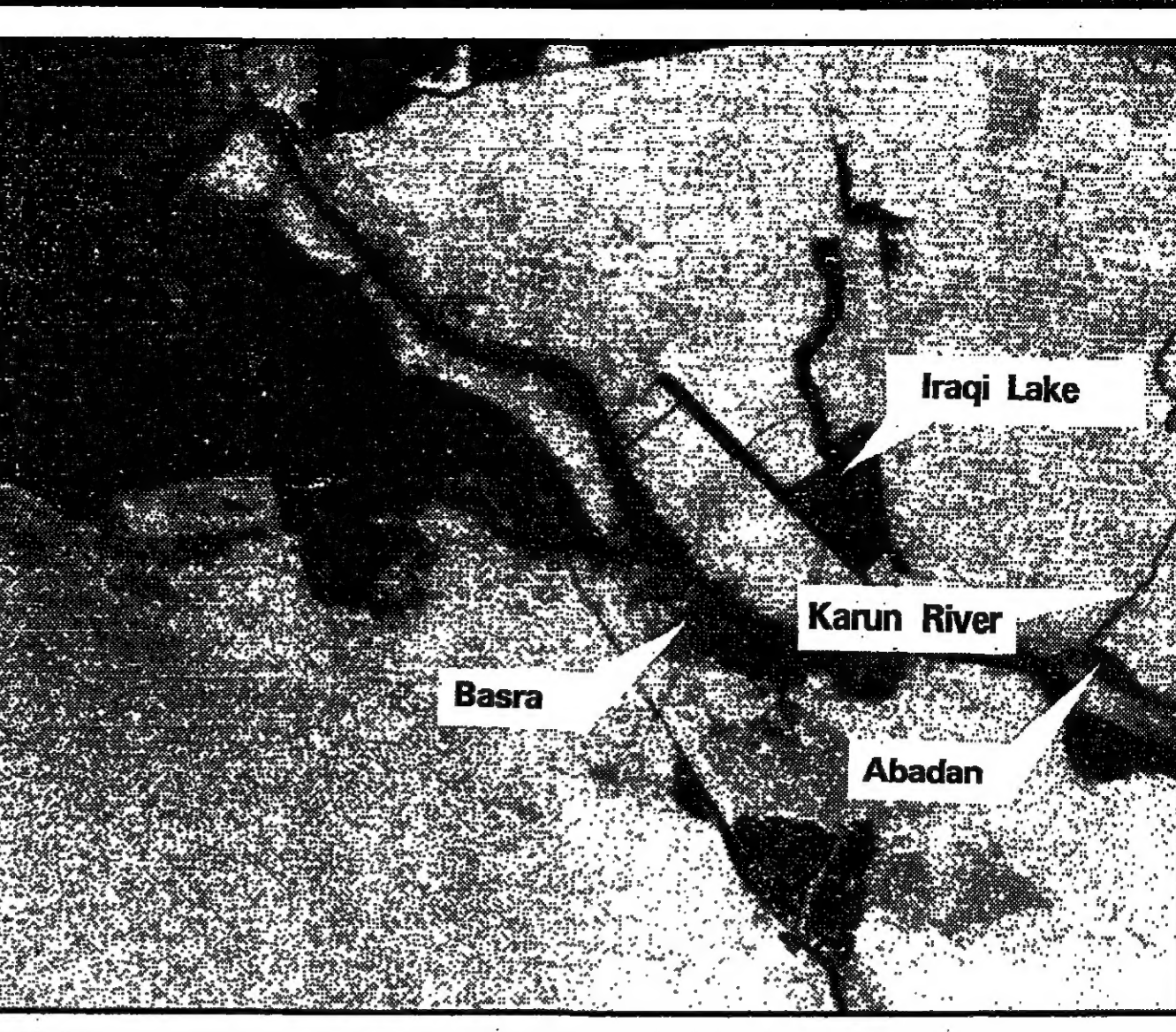
MOST Egyptian opposition...
parties, as well as a number...
of publishers, journalists...
and lawyers, are to boycott...
the International Book Fair...
in Cairo because Israel is to...
take part for the first time...
in three years.

The Prime Minister, Mr...
Kamal Hassan Ali, is to open...
the two-week fair on Tues...
day. More than 1,000 publi...
shers from 49 countries will...
exhibit and sell their books...
to visitors at heavily dis...
counted prices.

Seven Egyptian publishers...
have already announced that...
they will boycott the fair in...
protest against Israel's par...
ticipation for the first time...
since the Israeli intervention...
in Lebanon in 1982 caused a...
deterioration in relations be...
tween Tel-Aviv and Cairo.

The 1978 Camp David ac...
cords which paved the way...
for the peace treaty between...
the two countries specified...
the normalisation of cultural...
ties. But most of these have...
been frozen.

Egyptian opposition politi...
cians say they are opposed...
to allowing Israel to take...
part in the fair because of...
its continued military pre...
sence in Lebanon.



Mystery of Iraqi ditch

By David Fairhall

Is the vast artificial lake...
(left) excavated by the Iraqis...
from the desert salt flats east...
of Basra only an exceptionally...
large anti-tank ditch, or is it...
part of an ambitious scheme to...
drain the Iranian rivers flow...
ing through Khuzestan?

Analysts working for a New...
York-based corporation who...
have watched the lake grow on...
a succession of US satellite...
pictures over the past four...
years believe that the Iraqis...
conceived the excavation be...
fore they attacked Iran, and...
have persisted with it because...
it is part of a strategic plan to...
recover what they regard as...
historic Arab lands.

They believe that the lake...
and its long arms, may be the...
secret weapon of which Presi...
dent Hussein has boasted.

The project started as a...
simple flooded trench, about 30...
kilometres long and just over...
a kilometre wide (about 18...
miles by 1,000 yards), block...
ing the obvious path across the...
flat desert north-east of Basra...
that the Iranian infantry might...
be expected to take. But by...
January, 1983, it had been ex...
tended at its south-eastern end...
into a 10-kilometre-wide lake.

British military intelligence...
assessment is that the satellite...
pictures have merely disclosed...
a massive defence work.

Polisario 'must be at summit'

From David Bradshaw...
in Algiers

Algeria is insisting that the...
Maghreb summit cannot go...
ahead unless the Polisario...
Front takes part.

Attempts to convene the...
meeting must now be dead...
locked since Morocco refuses...
to talk to an organisation it...
does not recognise and with...
which it is fighting a war of...
attrition in the Western...
Sahara.

It is the same obstacle...
which blocked attempts to...
convene Maghreb summits in...
Algiers in May, 1982, at the...
invitation of President Chadli...
Benedjed, and in Oujda, Mo...
rocco, in August last year at...
the initiative of King Hassan.

The Algerian Government...
made its position clear yester...
day in the editorial columns of...
the leading state-controlled...
daily, El Moudjahid.

"Since a Maghreb summit...
must tackle the subject of...
Western Sahara" it said, "how...
can it go ahead without the...
legitimate representative of the...
Sahrawi people? One way or...
another," said the commentary...
"the Polisario Front must...
have the possibility in a Ma...
ghreb summit of making the...
wishes of the Sahrawi people...
known."

Some observers say this...
wording is deliberately ambig...
uous to leave the door open for...
Polisario's wishes to be made...
clear at a summit without the...
physical presence of its repre...
sentatives. But this would still...
seem to be unacceptable to Al...
geria since it would confirm...
Morocco's thesis that the We...
stern Sahara conflict can be...
settled over the heads of the...
Polisario.

Aid workers flee Sudan war region

By Nick Cater...
and agencies

British aid workers in the...
Eastern Equatoria area of...
southern Sudan yesterday...
began an evacuation, following...
clashes between rebel forces...
and government troops.

A Foreign Office spokesman...
said that a maximum of 50...
people might be affected. Of...
the 200 Britons still left in...
southern Sudan, after earlier...
orders to leave the two other...
southern regions of Bahr el...
Ghazal and Upper Nile, which...
are now virtual no-go areas to...
foreigners.

In the past week up to 150...
dependants of staff working...
for Norwegian Church Aid, the...
US Agency for International...
Development, and United...
Nations programmes have been...
evacuated out to Khartoum or...
Nairobi.

Western diplomatic sources...
said yesterday that the...
in Sudan has a strong case to...
return of the supplies.



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Remainder	£5,515.10
Interest at 11.73% APR	£1,275.54
24 equal monthly instalments commencing 1 year after date of agreement	£1,274.61
Total Credit Price	£8,362.34

11.73% APR

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Budget solution key to progress

From our own Correspondent in Strasbourg

The EEC will be unable to make political progress, or to develop new policies, until its budget dispute is resolved, the Italian Foreign Minister, Mr Giulio Andreotti, said yesterday.

Speaking to the European Parliament as the new president of the Council of Ministers, Mr Andreotti called for an end to "excessive and sometimes sterile controversies" between the governments of the 10 member states.

The Community is running on makeshift month by month financing, based on 1984 levels. This is because Parliament last month rejected a council draft budget for 1985, on the basis that it would only cover 10 months of spending commitments. The council in turn rejected parliamentary amendments, saying they would break through the legal limit on EEC income from VAT contributions.

The Italian strategy for breaking this impasse, as outlined by Mr Andreotti, is in two parts. First, it will try to involve Parliament more closely in the budget-making process, to assuage MEPs' fears that their powers are being eroded. Second, the presidency will strive for inter-governmental agreement to bring forward by a couple of months the increase in VAT contributions planned for next year, to plug the spending gap for 1985.

In the longer term, Italian support for closer European integration was underlined in the Andreotti speech. No effort would be spared, he promised, to seek agreement by June on a date for an inter-governmental conference for negotiating a new treaty on European unity.

Mr Andreotti said unemployment was the central economic problem to be resolved.

Sicilian MEP demands an inquiry into alleged frauds

Mafia 'taking millions out of EEC farm fund'

From Derek Browne in Strasbourg

The Mafia is deeply involved in farm fund rip-offs costing the EEC millions of pounds a year, according to Italian MEPs.

Mr Pancrazio de Pasquale, a Communist member from Sicily, wants an EEC inquiry into the frauds. He claimed yesterday that the Mafia had penetrated Italian national and regional government, and was creaming off billions of lire from Community funds.

"It is quite clear from recent trials in Italy that the Mafia is involved," he said. "There are five trials going on at the moment, and each one involves projects funded by the Community. There has been collaboration by the authorities in Sicily, and the Mafia's hand in this is clear."

The inquiry call by Mr de Pasquale and colleagues sparked a brisk blaze of Mafia allegations. The Tory MEP Mr James Provan, claimed that there were three members of the last Parliament itself with Mafia connections, and that at least one member of the present Parliament was a suspect.

Another Conservative, Mr Bob Battersby, recalled that a top official of the EEC Court of Auditors, Mr Michael Murphy, had gone to Sicily some 18 months ago to investigate farm fund accounts. His visit was cut short when he was knocked down by a motorcyclist in Palermo and had both legs broken.

Mr Battersby estimated that at least 10 per cent of the £300 million of production aid in Italy was going to fraudulent claimants.

The Labour leader, Mrs Barbara Castle said: "The European Commission should mount a forceful campaign to root out the Mafia thugs behind these frauds and bring them to justice."

According to Mr de Pasquale, organised frauds affect virtually all sectors of the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as regional fund spending in Italy. He described yesterday how wine producers in Sicily and elsewhere doctored their output to qualify for extra aid, and falsified production figures.

The Commission has its own inspectorate in the olive oil sector, and is aiding a aerial survey of the Italian landscape to find out exactly how many olive groves there are.

The US Attorney General, Mr William French Smith, said yesterday that cooperation with Italy had "dramatically increased," and that arrests in the United States had reduced many underworld crime gangs to "secondary leadership."

But the Italian Interior Minister, Mr Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, cautioned: "The Government has had a series of considerable successes. But this doesn't mean that the Mafia can be considered defeated."

They were speaking at a news conference at the start of a two-day meeting in Rome of the joint US-Italian working group on organised crime.



SYMPATHISERS gather outside the Hamburg courtroom where 14 Hell's Angels, including two Britons, went on trial yesterday, writes Anna Tomlinson in Bonn.

The trial was suspended because of procedural irregularities last November. The members of the Hamburg Hell's Angels chapter, which has been banned by the West German Interior Ministry, are accused of belonging to a criminal organisation, a charge normally levelled only against politically-active groups.

They are also charged with robbery, blackmail, rape, incest, assault, racketeering and living off prostitution. Police said they found weapons and drugs when group members were arrested in Hamburg.

The two Britons appearing in court were named as Michael Tony Brown, aged 28, from London, and his brother, Andrew Roman Brown, aged 28, from Boston, Lincolnshire.

Pershing protest fails

Bonn: The West German Parliament's all-party defence committee yesterday narrowly defeated an opposition motion urging the United States to halt all exercises involving Pershing II missiles pending an investigation into an accident involving one of them last Friday.

Mr Alfred Biehle (Christian Democrat), the committee chairman, told a news conference he used his casting vote to defeat the motion from the opposition Social Democrats and the Greens party, and said further deployment of the medium-range missile would not be affected by the accident.

Three US soldiers were killed and 16 injured in the accident at a US army base near Heilbronn.

Mr Biehle said the cause of the accident was still unknown but a panel of specialists was investigating the incident. He added that the Pershing II system remained fully operational.

The Pentagon has cited static electricity or a fault in the crane lifting the missile as possible causes of the fire in the rocket engine.

A committee member, Mr Erwin Horn, speaking for the Social Democrats, said the Pershing II system was not yet fully developed and its deployment had been premature. He said his party would not allow the series of accidents involving the missile to be brushed under the carpet and would demand the matter in Parliament.

He said last Friday's incident was the fourth involving a Pershing II in one year.

Mr Biehle also said the Defence Minister, Mr Manfred Werner had told the commit-

tee that Bonn would press for withdrawal from West Germany of all Atomic Demolition Munitions, known as backpack nuclear mines, at a Nato meeting in March.

West Germany has decided in principle to join the US project to set up a permanently manned space station in the 1990s, a government official said yesterday.

But the Research Minister, Mr Heins Riesenhuber, also said the Government would reserve the right to withdraw from the programme.

US army convoys rolled along the autobahn yesterday carrying troops airlifted from the United States to their first European winter exercise in five years.

Heise state police in Wiesbaden said thousands of soldiers were transported to the Gies-sen-Felda region.—Reuter/AP.

Clash of evidence at Torun trial

Torun, Poland: Police witnesses at the trial of four Polish security policemen accused in the murder of Father Popieluszko gave conflicting testimony yesterday about plans to curb the priest's activities.

Josef Barczynski, an officer at Warsaw police headquarters, told Torun provincial court that one defendant, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, suggested at a meeting in October 3 that Father Popieluszko should be thrown from a moving train to intimidate him.

But Barczynski's superior, Lieutenant-Colonel Leszek Wolski, who also attended the meeting, said: "I didn't hear any statement about anyone being thrown out of a train."

Piotrowski and Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski and Leszek Pekala are accused of kidnapping and murdering the priest. Their superior, Colonel Adam Pieluska, is charged with aiding and abetting them. All four face possible death sentences.

Wolski told the court that the October 9 meeting at Piotrowski's office did not include a discussion of how to act against Father Popieluszko.

His evidence contradicted that of Barczynski, who quoted Piotrowski as saying: "Actions undertaken up to now to curb the harmful activities of Popieluszko have not achieved results."

The Interior Minister, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, has insisted major reforms in the Polish police apparatus following the killing of Father Popieluszko.

Western diplomats say the goal is to institute more discipline and greater party control in the Interior Ministry, and to ensure that its policies are in line with those of General Jaruzelski, the one Polish official.—Reuter/AP.

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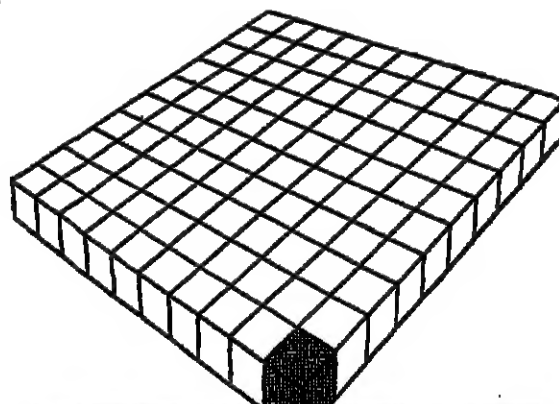
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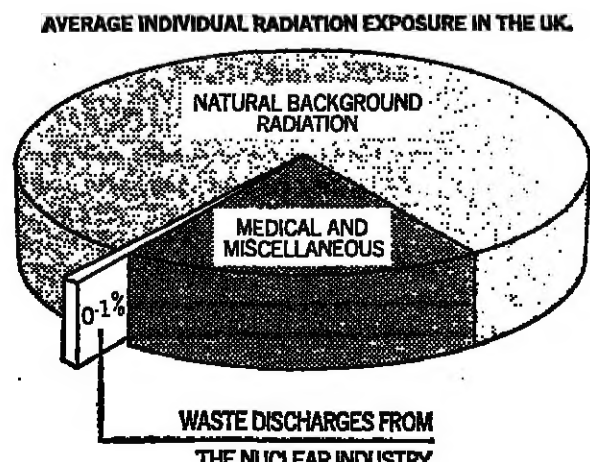
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For further information write to: Information Services, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.

BNFL



US keeps secret of arms find

Washington: The US Defence Department refused yesterday to dispute a report that Soviet-made weapons recovered during the invasion of Grenada had been turned over to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr Michael Burch, the Pentagon's spokesman, refused to single out the CIA by name or say how many of the recovered Soviet rifles and accompanying ammunition had been released by the Defence Department.

"Some of it was transferred to other Government agencies," Mr Burch said. "But I can only speak for the Defence Department."

Mr Burch was asked about the arms recovered from Grenada following a report by CBS television, stating that the CIA had acquired most of the nearly 10,000 rifles and 5.5 million rounds of ammunition stored on the island to help arm US-backed guerrillas in Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

Since the weapons are Soviet-made they have the added attraction of not being traceable to the US, CBS added.

Mrs Patti Vois, a spokeswoman for the CIA, said that the agency would not comment on the report. She did note, however, that Congress has prohibited any kind of funding or aid to the contra guerrillas fighting the leftist Nicaraguan government. "We are certainly adhering to that policy."

Asked whether any of the arms had been sent to the guerrillas fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, she again declined comment.

Peruvians find more graves

Ayacucho, Peru: Three more common graves containing the bodies of 11 civilians were found yesterday in Peru's guerrilla warfare zone, raising to 40 the number of dead discovered in the Andean mountain area in the past 24 hours. The bodies, many with hands tied behind their backs and with bullet wounds and burns, were found in a shallow graves about 30 miles from Ayacucho, which the Pope is scheduled to visit on February 3.—AP.

The human rights office of the Roman Catholic Church said this showed the Government was seeking a purely military solution to the conflict.

Referring to the request for helicopters, a senior US official said: "Mobile firepower is the key to fighting a guerrilla war."

The army has artillery, tanks and armoured cars and is backed by at least 24 ground-

Brazilians promised a new social deal

From Jan Rocha in Brasilia

Brazilians were promised a new republic where national security would mean food, health, education, and housing for all rather than political repression, in a speech yesterday by the President-elect, Mr Tancredino Neves.

"I have come to carry out urgent and courageous political, social, and economic reforms indispensable to the wellbeing of the people," said Mr Neves. The President-elect promised that his victory in an electoral college of 638 voters would be Brazil's last indirect election.

"The first task of my government will be to organise institutional reform. We must seek a new constitution," said Mr Neves, who is also a lawyer and former prime minister. But the new constitution, he said, was the responsibility not just of jurists, wise men and politicians, but of the entire population.

His other priority, he said, was the economic situation. "The inflation reflects the chaos of the economy. We will face up to it from the first day."

Mr Neves promised that the fight against inflation would not mean recession because his government's economic policy would be subordinated to the social duty of creating jobs.

"While there is a single person in this country without work, with nothing to eat, with no roof over his head, or illiterate, then all prosperity will be false," he said.

"We can make Brazil into a great country. Let us do so."

At least 38 people were killed when a mudslide swept through a shanty town in the state of Bahia yesterday. The final death toll could be higher, officials said yesterday. The mudslide, caused by several days of heavy rain, struck Victoria before dawn, and entire families were believed to have been killed in their sleep.

Washington may send Salvador new gunships

San Salvador: The United States is considering supplying advanced helicopter gunships to El Salvador to help the Government in its fight against leftwing rebels, US officials said yesterday.

The US State Department was reviewing a request from the Salvadoran army for four Hughes 500 helicopters fitted with guns capable of firing 6,000 rounds a minute.

Last month the United States supplied the Salvadoran Government with two C-47 aircraft equipped with 50-calibre machine-guns.

The human rights office of the Roman Catholic Church said this showed the Government was seeking a purely military solution to the conflict.

Referring to the request for helicopters, a senior US official said: "Mobile firepower is the key to fighting a guerrilla war."

The army has artillery, tanks and armoured cars and is backed by at least 24 ground-

attack jets and other aircraft. Military experts say the army's advanced helicopter gunships are offset by the rebels' flexibility and political motivation, and by terrain that favours the guerrillas.

The C-47, known as an "airborne fire support platform," is a military version of the popular Douglas DC-3 airliner adapted for counter-insurgency.

The army Chief of Staff, Colonel Adolfo Blandon, said the C-47s had produced good results since they were delivered last month. They were used in fighting last week, he said.

Much of the fighting has taken place in densely populated areas, and US officials said last year that Washington was supplying El Salvador with powerful gunships because of the possibility of civilian casualties.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in five years of civil war and human rights organisations say most of them were civilians.—Reuter.

Seven die in Jamaica riots

From Vincent Tulloch in Kingston

Security forces stepped up their presence in the streets of Kingston yesterday as angry mobs set up roadblocks in demonstrations against a petrol price increase which have left up to seven people dead and several injured.

Other towns remained paralysed as schools, offices, and other businesses stayed closed.

Some flights at Kingston's international airport were cancelled with passengers still stranded after missing flights on Tuesday. The unrest began after the price of petrol went up by about 40p to about £2. The first such increase since January 1984.

Demonstrators swiftly moved across the city, blocking all main roads with burning tyres, rubbish trees, and old cars.

Police confirmed three of the deaths yesterday, but other reports put the toll at six on Tuesday with a 12-year-old boy, being shot in the eastern end of the city yesterday morning.

The demonstrations sparked anger in political circles with the Conservative Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga, appealing for calm and telling Parliament that the demonstrations were political in origin. He said that gains in the economy were emerging following "programmes put in place to readjust the economic structure of the country."

The former prime minister and leader of the People's National Party, Michael Manley, said that price increases were unjustified in view of commitments made by a senior government member that there would be no petrol price rise.

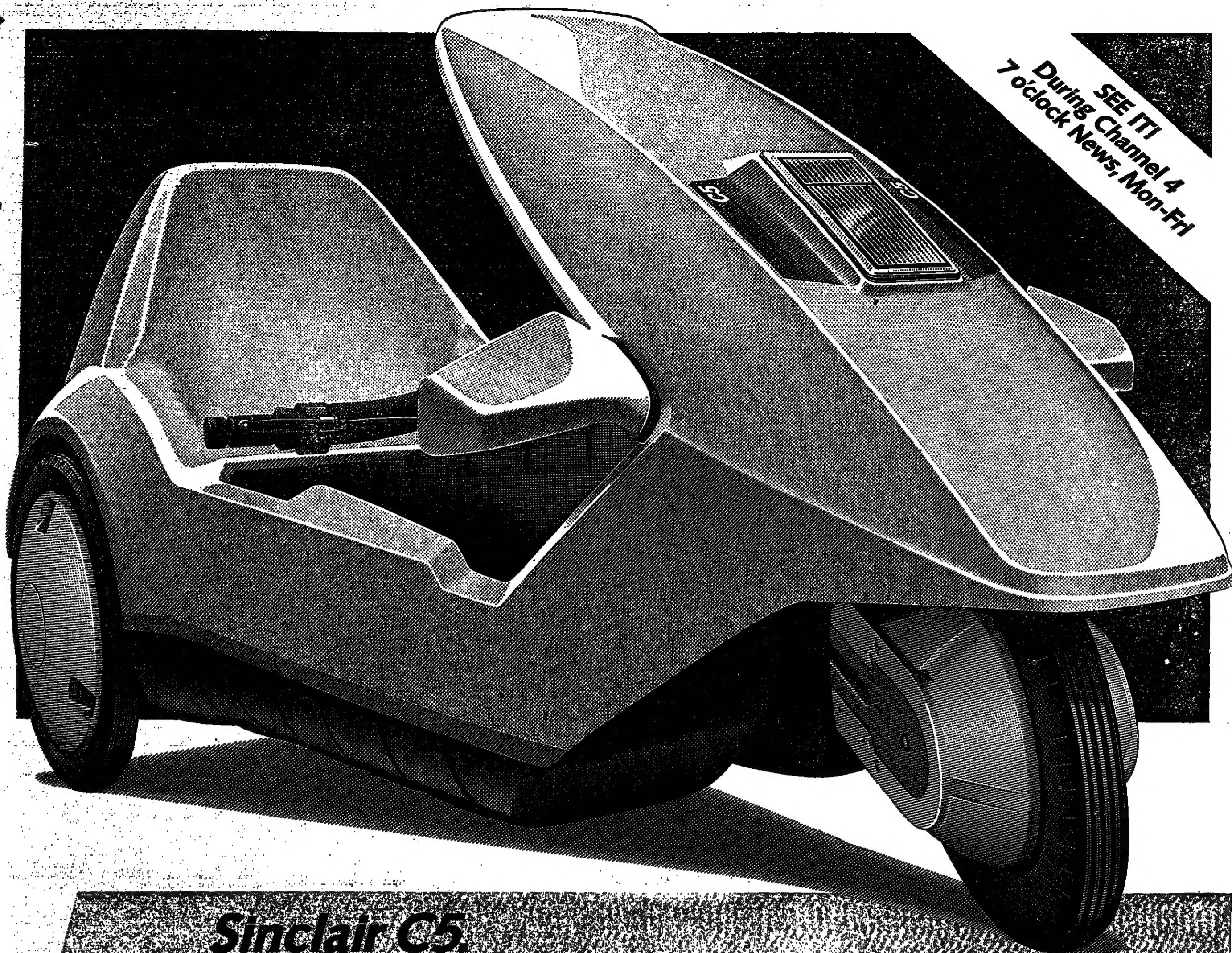
However, the Government claimed that the increases were necessary because of the huge devaluation in the Jamaican dollar against the US dollar.

The tiny Communist Workers' Party of Jamaica acknowledged its participation in the demonstrations by saying that it had helped to maintain roadblocks throughout the city. There have been no reports of injuries to visitors in tourist resorts which have been relatively calm.

JPL 150

Communist Work of Jamaica acknowledged participation in the riots by saying that throughout the city there had been no reports of visitors in tourist areas who have been re-

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But who controls Sir Rex?

It was Lord Hailsham, long ago, who first talked about an "elective dictatorship." It is Mrs Thatcher, this week, who has provided an ardent example of what the Lord Chancellor was talking about.

Eight thousand miles away, on Monday evening, members of the Falkland Islands' Legislative Council — to whom no opprobrium attaches — gave their "unanimous approval" to an amended Constitution for the islands which enshrines their right to self-determination. Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, told them that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe had agreed to insert that clause in Chapter One of the Constitution of Language referring to Article One of the UN International Covenant on Human Rights. He further informed the councillors that a plan to divorce administration of the Falklands from that of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands had now been scrapped. Instead a further Constitutional amendment would give that role "to the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falkland Islands." Yet another amendment abolishes the post of military commissioner for the Falklands. The level of policy transformation (or, less politely, U-turning) implied in these matters can be gauged by reference to a recent interview in the Penguin News with Mr David Thomas, the senior Foreign Office department head lately visiting Port Stanley. The decision to sever the political links between the Falklands and the Dependencies, said Mr Thomas, on the record, stemmed from a 1982 meeting presided over by the Prime Minister. "The idea is that separate constitutions should be drawn up reflecting the actual conditions and needs of, on the one hand, the Falklands, and on the other hand the Dependencies."

And now, at a distant stroke, all is utterly changed. In London, if you please, the Foreign Office has no on the record statement whatsoever. No transcript of this revised Constitution. No explanation of what's involved. No comment. Nothing. Off the record we may perhaps expect an Order in Council in the Spring. But no final decision has been taken.

Either members of the Falklands' legislature, meeting in council, are deluded; or someone is peddling delusions closer to home. And one can't be too understanding about "communications difficulty." The Falklands lie at the end of copious telephone, radio and telex links. And Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, is not some ethereal, indigenous figure. He is a seconded Foreign Office diplomat. When he addresses the Legislative Council and introduces the new Constitution, he is London's man. Yet London denies all knowledge.

It is one thing for this Government — and this Prime Minister — to espouse a particular policy towards the Falklands. When Mrs Thatcher, in her Christmas message to the islands, said that "it is the wishes of the Falkland Islanders that are paramount and so it will continue to be" she was fully entitled to her personal opinion. Not a very sensible opinion, perhaps. And not one, self-evidently, that will survive her tenure in Downing Street. But there is all the difference in the world between Mrs Margaret Thatcher shooting from the hip and Foreign Office officials — without any debate or any opportunity for debate in Britain — promulgating Constitution-amending policies which are not even available for scrutiny in London.

British policy on the Falklands is hugely expensive policy, topping £600 million in this financial year — and with no real end in sight. We have not — for all its new democracy — established negotiating links with Argentina. We have not followed through the Prime Minister's quite specific pledge to consult the Islanders about their future. Nor have we been allowed to debate — in the House of Commons — what the options for that future might be. The history of the past two years has been one of manifest evasion, orchestrated from Downing Street, imposed on glum Foreign Office. And now, it seems, the Islanders are being given all manner of Constitutional pledges — no bill attached — which Parliament cannot be allowed to see. An Order in Council is a Government decree approved by the Privy Council. Has that approval already been given? If so when, and by whom? Or has even the Privy Council — all unheralded — yet to meet? "Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey have agreed," says Sir Rex, as though that were the end of the matter. On the contrary, it ought to be the beginning of some proper scrutiny and democratic control in this greyest of grey areas.

Countdown to local crisis

The 16 English Labour-controlled local authorities due for ratecapping in the spring are moving into the serious stages of their Russian roulette with the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin. Up to now, their battle has not been put to a real test. The councils have stood by their agreement not to settle on the side of individual deals with Mr Jenkin over the rate limits which he announced in December. The deadline for making representations about Mr Jenkin's proposed maximum rates for 1985-86 passed on Tuesday. None of the threatened councils, trudged through the snow to the Department's Marsham Street headquarters to seek a compromise. That much was predictable. But that was also the easy bit. Yesterday, the rate support grant settlement got Commons approval (though with some unhappiness on the Government benches). From today, the going gets hotter and swifter. Orders implementing the rate limits for the 16 will be published next Thursday, and are due for parliamentary assent on February 15. The councils then aim to hold synchronised budget meetings on March 7 at which, if the outright rejections have their way, the phoney war will end and the real confrontation will begin.

After that, what? If the hard-liners have their way, the councils will refuse to pass legal budgets or set legal rates, on the grounds that they cannot do so without abandoning the services their communities need. They would then try to ensure that their council workers remain on full pay while the authorities await concessions from Mr Jenkin. Debt charges would go unpaid. The City would panic and put pressure on the Government to settle.

Whether it will happen that way is an altogether different question. There are at least three major stumbling blocks. First, the small matter of winning the votes on the threatened councils. In some of the hill-top authorities, Labour holds in massive majorities. But there are others, notably Lambeth and the Greater London Council, where the majorities are narrow. There is a growing suspicion that some of the most uncompromising rhetoricians in these assemblies know full well that their less committed colleagues will cop out on the vital votes. It happened in Liverpool last year and it could happen again this time.

Second, the councils could find themselves tempted into negotiations about rate levels which at present remain taboo for internal political reasons. This too was what happened over Liverpool's 1984-85 budget, though the left's mythology of that event somewhat obscures the fact. As John Carvel pointed out yesterday, there is an area of slack amounting at present to 5 per cent in the Government's proposed spending plans for the rate-cap councils. For the hardest hit councils, that figure may not be enough to play with. They are talking of imposed cuts of up to four times that amount. Though the gap is large and though all the options involve real diminutions in jobs and services, it does provide an area of possible negotiation. Environment Department officials also acknowledge there could be "mistakes" in some of their figures. In cash terms, this could put many millions of pounds back on the table. The authorities will have to move quickly, and within the next week, if they are to keep it in play, but it could be a tempting offer.

The final factor is pressure from within the Labour Party itself. When the national executive committee backed the threatened councils earlier this month it did so in the hope that the concerted stand would lead to meaningful negotiations with Mr Jenkin. Party pressure for an honourable settlement, one which combines a real Government retreat on spending levels with a recognition of the inflated political mileage in last ditch defiance, is likely to grow. An extremely tough round of English county council elections is now less than four months away and Mr Kimock will want the rates battle on the back burner for another year.

The cruise contortions

Today the Belgian government is due to review its wavering position on the installation of 46 cruise missiles after the Prime Minister, Mr Martens, refused to commit himself to the March deployment deadline when he met President Reagan in Washington on Monday. Mr Martens now finds himself in exactly the same dilemma as that faced, and consummately sidestepped, by his Dutch counterpart, Mr Lubbers, last June. He and his centre-right coalition must choose between political defeat at home and reminding the world of the latent division in Nato between the Americans and the

western Europeans. It is Mr Martens' misfortune that the passage of time has left him with much less room for manoeuvre than the Dutch.

Although the Belgian and Dutch difficulties over cruise are very similar, the nature of the game has been changed by this month's agreement between the Americans and the Russians to resume arms talks at which the Euro-missiles will be one of the main topics. Before that, Washington wanted a united Nato front in face of Soviet refusals to negotiate; now it wants a united front to bolster its position at the talks. By the same token, Moscow sought to divide Nato when it was refusing to talk so as to embarrass the Americans, and still seeks to foment division now that it is prepared to negotiate. That is why Mr Gromyko said on television at the weekend that the talks could be jeopardised if deployment continues in western Europe. He will not have been unaware of Mr Martens' appointment.

Nor was the Dutch government when it said on Friday that it would go ahead with deployment at the delayed date of November this year if present conditions remained unchanged. Last June's condition for deployment — the installation in eastern Europe of just one more Soviet SS 20 missile — has, according to Nato, been surpassed by eight. But the Dutch parliament, like the Belgian, could still decide that progress in the coming superpower talks made deployment superfluous or potentially counter-productive. The Geneva accord has revived the flagging morale of the "peace movement" in both countries and may have a similar effect in West Germany. There, six citizens have just exercised their right of going direct to court with a suit claiming that the stationing of Pershing II missiles in their country is, after one rocket misfired last week, a threat to personal safety. In Belgium and the Netherlands, hostility to the missiles embraces not only the peace protesters and the opposition but also a significant part of the main Christian-Democrat component in each coalition. In addition, Mr Martens must call a general election by December 2, which is naturally uppermost in his mind. If hostility to Euro-missiles proved so strong when East-West relations were frozen, the possibility of a thaw (perverse) is more likely than anything else to revive it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avoiding the pitfalls

Sir—Your Leader (January 13) on the need to bring the miners' strike to an end is both wise and welcome. Its text might have been: "He who divideth his own house shall inherit the wind." The nation cannot afford to think of militant miners as the enemy within, the NUM cannot afford a permanent division within its ranks.

The issue must be seen against the background of a great national disaster—the pound stands at well below half what it stood against the dollar four years ago; there must be about four million unemployed; we are eating the seed corn (over £10,000,000 of oil revenue) and spending our children's heritage on current account.

Little wonder that the miners do not believe in the financial motives of the Government, particularly as it has just sold a major national asset to what the stock market believes to be half its real worth.

It does not help for the Government to say that uneconomic pits must be closed. Five accountancy professors have rightly said that "there are heavy overheads which will not be saved should a pit be closed." The real question is whether the running costs exceed the value of the coal mined. A solution of the dispute might be attained if that test were applied pit by pit. But above all there must be the will for peace.—Yours faithfully, Raymond Blackburn, 50 Homefield Road, London W4.

Sir—In the light of revelations about Mr Arthur Scargill's fond boyhood memories, can we now expect a new negotiating position? When he has saved every uneconomic pit from extinction, will he keep the lads out for another year until bare-fisted prize-fighting is licensed on Sunday afternoons in all Yorkshire pit villages?—Yours faithfully, Andrew Trembath, (Chairman, South Nottingham SDP), Arnold, Nottingham.

Bad sport

Sir—Lord Chalfont's letter (January 13) in reply to the launching of the Campaign for Fair Play merely serves to highlight the blinkered view that sport can somehow be separated from the society which created it, supports it and surrounds it. It may be that some superficial advances have been made in non-racial cricket and rugby, but the inescapable fact is that in South Africa the "right of the individual to freedom of choice in the practise of sport" can never be achieved until that same individual has equal rights in society at large. Supporting sports administrators can never lead to any real change—a racist society practices racist sport.—Yours sincerely, S.D. Schofield, London N17.

When Tweedledum and Tweedledee talk peace

Sir—Your report (January 14) on the comments made by Gromyko and by Shultz when interviewed on television after the end of the talks at Geneva, makes curious reading.

Both, according to your headline, "claim Geneva victory"; each, that is, claimed that the other side had made significant concessions at Geneva to allow hope for the future of arms negotiations. Neither, it seems, claimed himself to have made significant concessions, yet that might have been a source of legitimate pride.

Let us applaud Tweedledum and Tweedledee where praise is due, and urge on them the need for public acknowledgment that the exponential arms race can only be lost, eventually, by all participants; or abandoned, precisely through "concessions."—Yours faithfully, Michael Rubinstein, 6 Raymond Buildings, London WC1.

Miscellany at large

Sir—Lady Young (January 12) no doubt assumes that those of us who fought in the war are either dead or senile and that those of us who are under fifty are ready to accept without question the Hollywood History of World War Two.

As one who spent four years as a volunteer with the Royal Navy, there is no doubt in my mind about who really won the war in Europe and would feel proud to take part in any celebration of VE day which was initiated by those Russian servicemen of my generation who were fortunate enough to survive the Nazi aggression between 1941 and 1945.

I do not owe my "freedom" to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Twentieth Century Fox, but rather to millions of dead, anonymous Russian peasants. Bradford W. Yorkshire.

Sir—Your Diarist draws attention (January 15) to the contrast between the views of Dr Owen and Mr Steel on Nicaragua. But this is only one item in a major divergence between the outlook of the Social Democrats, most of whose MPs left the Labour Party precisely because they are determined Cold Warriors, and the majority of Liberals.

by-election last year Dr Owen accused Mr Kinnock of being associated with "front organisations whose purpose was the defence of this country." One wonders what the numerous Liberal members of the peace movement made of that. How absolutely true that was the statement made in the Guardian by Mr Jack Straw, MP, that the Social Democrats have taken up a position in the centre of the Conservative Party, and do the Liberals really belong there?—Yours faithfully, Edwin Chapman, Earley, Berkshire.

Sir—In his letter from Moscow (January 15) Lev Semelko suggests, rightly in my view, that mutual disarmament is the only sensible way to proceed. Before that, however, he says, Britain should dispense with her nuclear deterrent to take advantage of that wonderfully generous gesture of the Soviet Union in which it pledges not to use nuclear weapons against states who do not possess them.

We in Britain are not only concerned with nuclear attack; we are also very keen to maintain our freedom from any aggression and to have the democratic rights we enjoy today. There are splendid instances of non-nuclear states — Afghanistan, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — which have not been victims of Soviet nuclear attack, but how free are they? The idea of one side leading the disarmament process seems to be so appealing, would it not be better for the side with the great-

est strength to reduce first? Done that way, the Soviet Union would not really notice the loss of less than 4 per cent of its nuclear deterrent, whereas Britain would be sorely naked without 100 per cent of hers.

Or does the view of the late Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, still apply: namely his statement made in Moscow on November 22, 1982: "Let no one expect of us unilateral disarmament. We are not naive people. We do not demand unilateral disarmament by the West."

Surely the best hope for peace in both East and West must rest with the maintenance of deterrence and with the arms control talks about to start between the United States and the Soviet Union. May there be a true desire for accord by both sides, and may properly verifiable and just agreement be reached. That way no one will be naive and left naked. We in Britain can play our part by our commitment to Nato and the deliberations

If a deputy comes to High Court judgment

Sir—Your report (January 12) that a High Court injunction stopping further GIC spending on advertising against its own abolition was granted by a QC sitting as High Court judge.

It has long been established in our constitution that one of the fundamental principles guaranteeing the impartiality and independence of judges from government is their security of tenure. In office ipso facto, this principle cannot apply to those engaged ad hoc by the Lord Chancellor's Department to deputise as judges.

For a practitioner deputising in this way to be signed by the courts administration to hear a case in whose outcome the Government can scarcely be said to have no interest, is highly questionable in constitutional terms. Lord Hailsham owes us an explanation.—Yours faithfully, Adrian Tibbits, 2 Harcourt Buildings, London EC4.

Sir—Prof Griffith (Letters, January 6) is right to question the method of appointment of judges, and to

Sir Gawain's time warp

Sir—Was it Sir Gawain who, when he came across a lion and a serpent fighting, felt it incumbent upon himself to help the lion because he regarded it as the more natural beast of the two?

I found myself in a similar situation this Christmas when I went with my 11-year-old son to help him spend his Christmas money on a new watch. His choice fell between a Casio (Japanese) and a Timex (British).

They were directly comparable in price and performance — nobody, it seems, buys a watch these days just to tell the time — and I

which take place within the framework of the alliance to enable the Americans to go into the talks speaking for all Nato countries. Consideration of the British and French independent defence needs will depend on the progress of these talks, and may well be a very good sign when we reach that stage.—Yours faithfully, Ken Aldred, Peace through Nato, London SW1.

Sir—Richard Holmes (Letters, January 14) is quite right. Trident, a massive unilateral increase in nuclear weapons, is absurdly expensive: £30,000 a day for 1,000 years for those who find billions difficult! But to argue only on grounds of cost is to avoid the issue of principle. What is any independent British nuclear deterrent meant to be for? Any such system is illegal, immoral, politically pointless and incredible because suicide is not a rational defence policy.

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK: The first sparkle of time frost bewitched us with its sudden beauty towards the end of the old year, heralding the advance of bitterly cold winds and snow from Siberia. At the fall of the moon, in the stillness of a clear night, temperatures dropped steeply inland and even near the coast, so that not only pools and ditches, but broads and parts of our tidal rivers became sheeted with ice. Scandinavia experienced the sudden grip of winter only a little earlier and precipitated the departure of vast numbers of waterfowl, many of which have been hurrying into Norfolk from across the North

Sea in the past week. Wild swans assemble on our swamps in spectacular numbers every winter, but in the present emergency the total of these refugees has increased almost beyond belief, while wigeon have been arriving in great force for many years past. Immigration by fieldfares and redwings was on a small scale in the autumn, so that the democratically accountable everywhere remained untouched up to Christmas; but now these birds have been flocking in to strip harbours and bolies of their offerings. On hearing that Finnish Lapland was suffering from 50 degrees of frost, my thoughts turned to

the likely reaction of wawings, native to the forests of that region. These attractive berry eaters have flocked into eastern England in considerable numbers from time to time when driven by extreme cold and hunger. I was therefore not altogether surprised when about 50 of these elegant, crested visitors turned up to feast on the fruits of guelder-rose in a fern near my home on January 5. Whether a notable invasion is imminent remains to be seen. The suddenness of winter's clamp-down in the Baltic may have killed many of them before they could set out for range in the west. ... E. A. ELLIS.

How Thatcherism makes the doctor's life more difficult

Sir—The decision, by the kidney unit at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, to cease dialysis on Mr Derek Sage was appalling.

None of the medical profession is the doctor thrust into the position of judge and jury more clearly than when it involves decisions on renal dialysis. This is because the Government's allocation of funds is grossly inadequate to meet the demands for this life-saving treatment.

Assessment of a patient's fitness to be accepted for renal dialysis is therefore strongly governed by economic considerations. The best that can be said for the Oxford kidney unit is that it made a wrong initial assessment of Mr Sage's suitability for dialysis.

The furor over the decision to cease dialysis betrays poor communication between the kidney unit and other interested parties, including Mr Sage's general practitioner. However, the utter betrayal of the patient's confidential medical details is unpardonable.

Before millions of viewers and listeners, a spokesman for the hospital revealed Mr Sage's personal aggression, refusal to take tablets, and "brain damage." Should the unemployed Mr Sage survive, what chance of employment would there be for this now notorious, aggressive and "brain-damaged" man?

Confidentiality and acting in the best interests of one patient are part and parcel of medical practice. When Mr Thatcher singled doctors out among the medical services for generous pay increases, did she really buy their loyalty away from the patient?

A severe erosion of health care services is occurring as a result of the Government's cuts, and doctors have been asked to accept their acceptance of deteriorating conditions. Are we all readily reduced to making morally indefensible decisions and turning on the interests of our patients, rather than pointing to where the blame really lies: in the divisive and ineffective economics of the Thatcher Government?—Yours sincerely, (Dr) F. L. Aslett, (Dr) R. Stott, London N3.

Sir—We find your Leader "The dilemma on dialysis" (January 9) quite out of touch with reality.

If, as you state, some 2,000 people require renal dialysis and there are facilities to treat only 1,400, who should decide when and whom to treat?

The Hippocratic Oath, which you mention, states: "I will use my power to help the sick to the best of my ability and judgment; I will abstain from harming or wronging any man by it." There is no mention of taking into account the age of the patient, the patient's dependants or other, purely medical, conditions.

Hippocrates also states in his Aphorisms, Section VI, No 38: "It is better not to treat those who have internal cancers since, if treated, they die quickly, but if not treated they last a long time." So much for Hippocrates!

Quality of life is of prime importance and should take precedence over other factors such as age, dependants, or other medical conditions. All patients who need dialysis should be able to obtain it, but unhappily the Government does not see fit to give the NHS the finances to accomplish this aim.

As long as there is inadequate funding in the health service, doctors will have to "play St Peter" and, if you can suggest anyone better qualified, we would welcome your advice. M. E. Sinclair, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

Sir—As a very junior doctor working in a busy casualty department, I was responsible daily for the sort of life-or-death decisions referred to by Meg Taylor (Letters, January 14).

Without even the very superficial knowledge of the patient usually available to the medical registrar, we had to decide in a few seconds whether or not to resuscitate patients, people who had collapsed and been brought to hospital by ambulance. Similar, often more distressing, decisions face me in the paediatric department where prospects for survival and morbidity are even less straightforward.

To some extent my experience made these decisions easier to bear, and as a slightly older and much more cynical doctor soon to enter general practice, I would gladly lay such decisions on the shoulders of the likes of Meg Taylor. Better I am sick to death of hearing the responsibility for this society's failure to devote adequate resources to its health service, of appealing to patients because the treatment they deserve isn't available to them, of making excuses for hospital and surgery waiting times and inadequate transport facilities.

The case of Mr Sage is not unique. Rather it is symptomatic of a society that has got its priorities wrong. (Dr) Mark Butt, London SW20.

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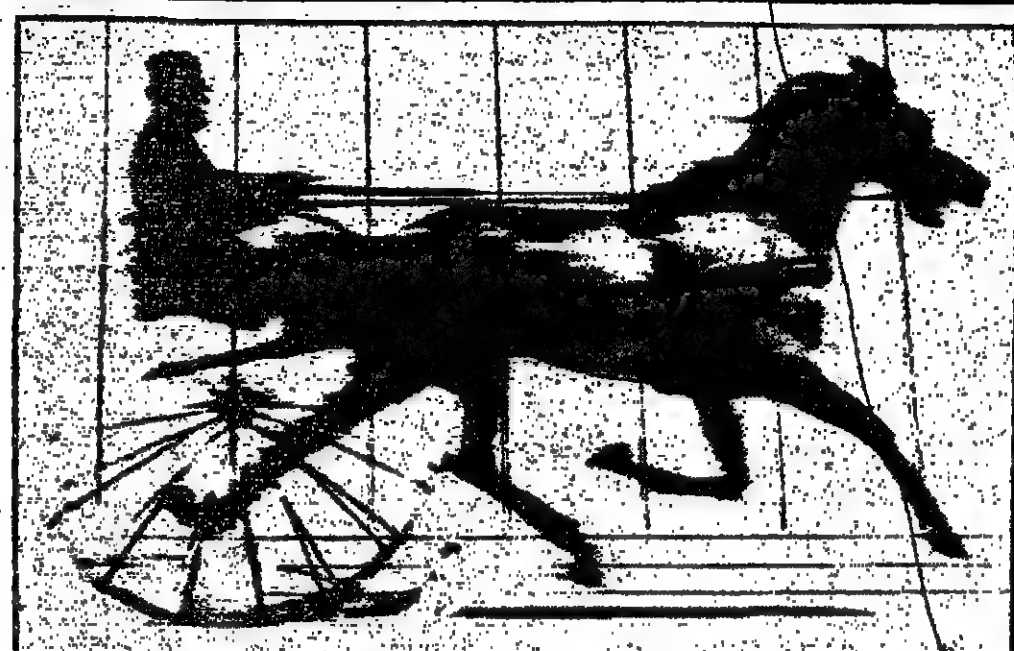
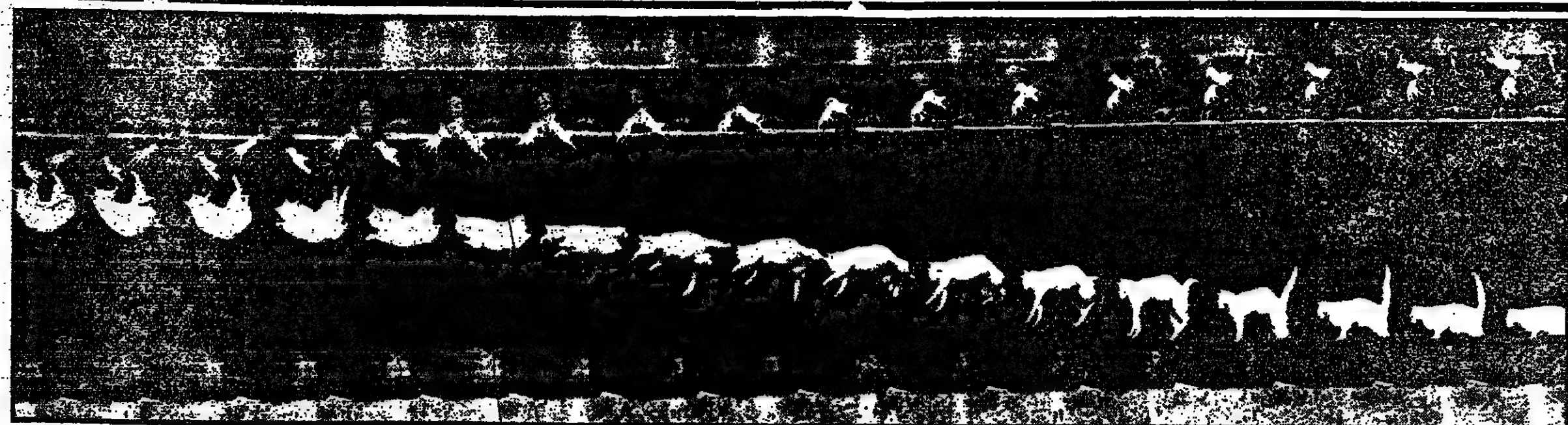
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FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Top: Etienne-Jules Marey's controversial photograph (1894) of a falling cat who manages to land on his paws. Above left: Maybridge's classic picture (1878) which proved that a trotting horse at one point lifts all four feet off the ground. Above right: the Great September Comet of 1882 taken by Sir David Gill. It was this picture which sparked off the mapping of the heavens by photography. Right: the last photograph of the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger, a marsupial now thought to be extinct - a frame from a film made about 1935. Left: W. C. Röntgen's radiogram of his wife's hand - the first photographic record of X-rays through living flesh, taken in 1895.

It is 150 years since Fox Talbot photographed a library window. Jon Darius looks at the future of the image

The truth in black and white

PHOTOGRAPHY, arguably the most important medium for recording and communicating information since the invention of printing, fast approaches its sesquicentenary. But can this technology with its brilliant past stake any claims to a promising future?

Photography does not have so precise a date of birth as, say, X-rays. Nicéphore Niepce did manage to obtain a photograph of roofs around 1826 by coating a pewter plate with a mildly light-sensitive tar and exposing it in a camera obscura for the better part of a day. The man who properly deserves to be called the inventor of photography, however, was that paragon among Victorian gentleman-scientists, William Henry Fox Talbot. Spurred by his inadequacy as a draughtsman, he began experimenting with the light-sensitive salt silver chloride and in 1835 produced a negative photograph of a library window at Lacock Abbey. Historians may debate whether Niepce's earlier efforts of Daguerre's later process should bear the palm,

but many will argue that this first paper negative, made 150 years ago and now preserved in the Science Museum, truly marks the invention of photography. Was it McLuhan who said that no subject can truly look to its future until it has become aware of its history? Photography can certainly claim to be a case in point. The historical dimension has lately come to the fore in a way that owes little to any anniversary celebrations. Old photographs are bought and sold on the one hand as peepholes into a vanished world and used for research by such artists of the camera as Julia Margaret Cameron, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Weston. On the other, even unattributed photographs may serve as mementoes of a vanished technology, from silvery daguerreotypes to lustrous albumen prints.

Museums and galleries devoted to the evolution of the camera and its products are growing in number and stature. To such traditional guardians of the photographic past as the National Centre of Photography run by the Royal

Photographic Society in Bath and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, we have seen the addition of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television opened in Bradford in June 1983 under the aegis of the Science Museum, itself in possession of an excellent photographic collection. The National Museum of Photography will shortly inherit the contents of the Kodak Museum in Harrow, closed last month.

In the last year, several paired books and exhibitions illustrating photographic history were launched: British and French calotypes in Houston and Chicago with its printed counterpart *Paper and Light* by R. R. Brettell; early studies of motion by Marey and contemporaries in *Beams* summarised in *Le Chronophotographie* by M. Frizot; and my own *Beyond Vision* covering historic scientific photographs published by Oxford University Press and first shown at the Science Museum. (It opened yesterday at the National Museum of Photography in Bradford.) As we shall see, scientific photography by

virtue of its perpetual efforts to burst technological confines is really the touchstone for the issue of photography's future.

Certain trends are obvious and irresistible. Cinematography must acknowledge the encroachment of video in its tape and laser disc formats. Holography is exploited increasingly for commercial as well as artistic purposes. The microchip is paving the way for ever more "intelligent" cameras like the Canon T70. Camera of the Year in 1984, in which miniature electronic circuitry permits a finely adjustable balance between automatic and manual control without sacrificing compact size.

The crystal ball displays one trend which could dominate the future of still photography: the growth of solid-state recording at the expense of the classic chemical emulsion. The advantages of electronic image recording with solid-state detectors over conventional means include reusability (as against the irreversible chemical record) and digital storage (as against the older analogue image). An

image stored digitally can be readily transmitted, converted into any convenient output such as a television screen and manipulated by image processing. Adjustment of contrast and colour balance, enlargement and reduction could be performed by a microcomputer.

Will electronics really supplant photochemistry? The signs might appear to point that way. Sony exhibited a prototype of the first electronic still camera, the Mavica, in 1981. There are now more than 30 companies actively concerned in the development of a camera whose "film" is not cellophane covered with a silver halide gel but a magnetically coated floppy disc.

In Sony's wake Canon and Hitachi have revealed alternative models, and three months ago at Photokina in Cologne - the pace-setting photographic world's fair - a host of further versions were displayed by Copal, Fujifilm and Panasonic. Electronic technology is poised to take over all aspects of camera operation; last summer, Polaroid even

patented an electronically variable colour filter.

While electronic cameras may represent the future for commercial photography, among scientists they are very much the present. One of the historic photographs in *Beyond Vision* reveals the discovery of an extraterrestrial volcano imaged in eruption by a vidicon camera aboard *Voyager 1*. At the other extreme, a television-type system is coupled with an electron microscope to study atoms in a crystal of gold.

The classic landscape of Mars - our first picture from the surface of another planet - was recorded by the "face-mill" scanner of the Viking 1 lander. A new life-form encountered on the ocean floor was captured with a charge-coupled device (ccd), an array of solid-state sensors which convert light at each point of the image into electric impulses.

The flurry of electronic images notwithstanding, conventional chemical photography is far from dead. It is not a case of the dinosaur yielding

to the mammal, but of necessary coexistence. The faintest image ever recorded, also included in *Beyond Vision*, is a wispy shell around a distant galaxy detected not by a "ccd" much vaunted by astronomers for its capacity to image extremely faint subjects - but by means of a Kodak emulsion, its contrast enhanced by the technique of photographic amplification invented by David Malin of the Anglo-Australian Observatory. At a time when electronic detectors can register the arrival of a single photon of light, Malin's photograph is no mean feat.

So for both shutterbugs with compact cameras and scientists with sophisticated apparatus, electronics is bound to infiltrate further. But electronic images are still relatively primitive in character or else restricted in application, and chemistry will not be banished by electronics for some time to come.

Jon Darius is Curator of Astronomy at the Science Museum in London. His book, *Beyond Vision*, was published last year by OUP.

Anthony Tucker on the dangers of a cadmium diet

Taste of danger

DEPARTMENT of Environment experts are studying, with some concern, a survey of the Walsall area which suggests that some population groups have an intake of cadmium from their food which approaches and may even exceed the internationally permitted levels. The findings conflict with the conclusions of the national surveys undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and implies that, in areas without specific cadmium-rich industrial problems - such as Shipham in Somerset - Britain has serious and hitherto unreported environmental cadmium health hazards. The problems, if they are as serious as the Walsall study suggests, need urgent attention because the use of cadmium, in spite of voluntary controls requested by the Government three years ago, is rising.

The Walsall study carried out for his doctoral thesis by Christopher Tennant of Aston University, was triggered by the discovery three years ago that a significant proportion of soil samples taken in the area had total cadmium concentrations greater than three milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). This is a level which has been set, broadly speaking, by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation, as the maximum permissible in agricultural land.

In Walsall the contamination is the result of long industrial fallout and is typical of many urban-industrial areas in the developed world. The study was carried out in detail when it was found that, in a survey of 193 homes growing a substantial proportion of their own vegetables, 42 per cent were using land with cadmium contamination that rendered it unsuitable for agricultural production. The implication was that, through direct uptake, these families were at high risk of excessive exposure.

Health risks from chronic exposure to cadmium are kidney damage and, at low levels, increased blood pressure, with recent studies suggesting secondary effects such as blocking the uptake of essential zinc by the developing foetus. These hazards underlie existing or proposed strict controls on the industrial use of cadmium in Sweden, Denmark and, recently, Switzerland. In 1983, in its survey of cadmium in the Ministry of Agriculture, recommended that British industry should find alternatives to cadmium. The most recent EEC Paris Commission annual report shows that the recommended limits are not being implemented.

The most worrying findings of the Walsall survey are that while the assessed daily intake of cadmium in an urban control group averaged about 20 micrograms a day, which accords with MAFF findings and is well inside the internationally accepted maximum of 70 micrograms a day from all sources, the average for the families eating home grown vegetables was almost 50 micrograms a day from this source alone. Some, says the study, exceeded the 70 microgram level.

These calculations, based on sample analysis and a study of family diets in the 96 households at highest risk, are challenged by the Department of the Environment. One obvious area of doubt is that the survey, carried out in September - a peak month for home grown vegetables - used as a basis for year round calculations. This may well overestimate the actual dietary intake by a factor of two or three. But the hard fact remains that a substantial number of people - many retired but also many with young families - are using industrially contaminated land for agricultural purposes.

That large areas in urban-industrial complexes are already contaminated to levels which, on the basis of international recommendations, render them unfit for the production of food, is a powerful reason to accelerate national measures to reduce cadmium use and pollution.

In the Midlands, according to an earlier Aston University survey, the expected reduction of cadmium fallout because of the decline of the foundry industry has not occurred. Cadmium emissions have risen in recent years because the remaining foundries now tend to melt scrap which is itself cadmium contaminated. National use is also rising because of the importance of cadmium as a plastic stabiliser and in electronic components - not to mention disposable batteries. While other countries have imposed, or are in process of imposing, strict controls except where cadmium use is essential, Britain has done nothing.

The argument is that substitutes for many of the most important cadmium uses are not as good as cadmium itself, and that emission control is expensive. Such arguments are no longer acceptable.

Reference: *Cadmium in the environment and high risk population groups*, Christopher Tennant, Doctoral dissertation, University of Aston in Birmingham.

As concern grows over research into human embryos and Parliament has its say, Peter Braude explains the view from the laboratory

Looking at life with the best of intentions

RESEARCH using the early human conceptus has been pursued in this country for a number of years, not out of malevolent scientific curiosity as has been suggested in the Commons, but for specific humanitarian reasons related to three major objectives.

The improvement of fertility therapy using in vitro fertilisation. The chance of an individual conceptus implanting after in vitro fertilisation and replacement into the uterus is only 10 per cent. Indeed, current research indicates that the vast majority of conceptuses grown in vitro will not even survive to the implantation period in culture (6 days), and hence would probably not produce a pregnancy.

Although the reasons for this failure are as yet obscure, the choices facing the medical scientist are clear. Either we use the very early non-viable non-sentient conceptus to aid and improve these techniques for the benefit of patients, or we continue on a trial and error basis, using the adult human patient as the research subject, irrespective of the financial, emotional, or psychological costs involved.

Since it is not yet possible to predict absolutely the number of eggs that will be obtained after drug stimulation therapy for in vitro fertilisation, there may be produced excess fertilised eggs that can safely be replaced into the mother (so-called "spare embryos").

Unlike sperm, eggs cannot be frozen prior to fertilisation. Current techniques only allow the successful freezing of the early conceptus (4 to 32 cells), which can be stored and used for replacement into the infertile woman if the initial attempt at replacement fails to produce a pregnancy. If eggs could be frozen many of the concerns about "spare embryos" would be obviated, but in order to develop these techniques, donated human eggs must be frozen, and thawed, and examined for fertilisation and normality of early development.

Investigation and alleviation of male infertility. About 40 per cent of the infertile population are male. Many of these men have depleted numbers of spermatozoa but live in the persistent hope that they may one day father a child of their own, rather than resorting to AID or adoption. However, as no clear means of diagnosis or treatment is yet available, they become increasingly depressed and time passes without children and without hope of therapy.

In an attempt to provide a prognosis for clinically infertile men, experimental methods are being developed using specially prepared hamster eggs. Hamster eggs cannot be penetrated by sperm from another species, but when their normal investments are disrupted, penetration by fertile human sperm can be

achieved. These results correlate well with subsequent fertility. The end-point of this test is the microscopic examination of the flattened hamster egg for sperm penetration after this the egg is discarded. However, even if the hamster egg were to be left in culture it is so damaged by the preparative procedure, that it is unable to do more than divide once.

Thus, there has never been any intention to create human animal hybrids, but merely to try and help the infertile couple. This crude "egg penetration test" may seem ridiculous to Mr P. Brundage, MP (Hansard), but at present we have little else available. To believe, as he does, that "it cannot further research" and that "we do not need such research" shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the technique of scientific method, and the misery of the infertile man.

Attempts are also being made to understand the process of human fertilisation by fertilising in vitro eggs donated by women undergoing sterilisation. We have found that after a full explanation of the implications of the test, 40 per cent of women undergoing sterilisation, are prepared to donate an egg for this purpose.

This demonstrates the compassion with which many of the fertile population view the infertile. Once valid parameters of measuring sperm fertility have been estab-

lished, scientists will be able to abandon crude in vitro assays.

Investigation of chromosomal abnormality and miscarriage. Some 60 per cent of conceptuses are lost before the first missed period, and a further 15 per cent miscarry. Over half of these abortuses are chromosomally abnormal but the reasons why so many conceptuses are wasted naturally are not understood. Clearly, miscarriage is distressing to any couple, and a child can be born with a handicap because of chromosomal abnormality.

It is possible to determine the types of chromosomal abnormality which occur most frequently and their possible origins by an examination of the chromosomes from preimplantation conceptuses derived from donated oocytes fertilised in vitro. This may eventually lead to an understanding and prevention of chromosomal abnormality. Indeed, if appropriate gene probes can be developed, it should be possible to select conceptuses for replacement after in vitro fertilisation, in couples where the chance of carrying a single gene defect is high. Surely this is far preferable to the present situation of screening by amniocentesis and late abortion?

Many people now accept the need for research on the early human conceptus but ask for this to be limited to "spares" and that conceptuses should not be generated specifically

for research. However, with the advances in freezing techniques, patients choose to have excess embryos frozen for replacement in subsequent cycles. Ironically, the very success of earlier research has meant that "spares" are no longer available, and therefore all further research will cease unless early conceptuses are generated specifically for that purpose.

There are others who are against all research on the early human conceptus, believing unequivocally that human life and individuality begin at fertilisation, and that the human conceptus should be afforded protection and respect from this point. However, it seems inconsistent that these same people who believe this, accord the dignity of funeral rites to a late abortus or still-born child, but wantonly disregard and discard the foetus from the early miscarriage.

Moreover, experiments on early mouse embryos do not support the idea that individuality is expressed from the moment of fertilisation. In that species it seems not to occur until the embryo is about to divide to the four-cell stage some 36 hours after fertilisation. Recent research using in vitro derived human embryos suggests a similar mechanism may operate in man but at an even later stage.

It is thus easy to understand the emotional outburst from

the Church as once more, science has started to question dogma. Previously such heresy would have been greeted with cries of sorcery and witchcraft and resulted in persecution or burnings at the stake. Fortunately in our democratic and pluralist society, these emotions have been tempered into long petitions and emotive letters to the press.

Scientists do not deny that the human conceptus is "living" or "human" much as sperm or eggs are living and human. Nor do scientists claim, as has been suggested, that the 14th day suggested by the Warnock Commission as the limit for permissible research, marks the beginning of life. This marks an arbitrary point in the development of the conceptus at which twinning can occur for the last time, and for those who believe in the soul, surely it cannot enter the conceptus prior to this time, unless the soul is also capable of twinning.

However, scientists do question the validity of believing that the early conceptus is entitled to "protection" just as much as the law protects a child (Lord Denning - Hansard). It may seem to Lord Denning that "the only logical point which the law could start is the moment of fertilisation" but has he considered the consequences of such an assumption? The placenta and membranes which constitute in

excess of 90 per cent of the conceptus up to 14 days would also require burial and the full respect accorded to the embryo itself. The use of the intra-uterine contraceptive device would be illegal, contraception by the post-coital pill would be illegal, and the use of the safe progesterone-only pill would have to be restricted in application, and chemistry will not be banished by electronics for some time to come.

Science does challenge our existing values, it would be bad science if it were not novel. However, society is ill-served by the unwillingness of its leaders to understand and accept the novel and to have confidence in the motives of its medical scientists. The issues raised in the Warnock report are both important and complex, and therefore should be discussed widely. However, they must be discussed on the basis of knowledge and understanding that that all too evidently has been lacking in correspondence to the press and in many of our Parliamentarians.

Peter Braude is senior research associate at the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Cambridge Clinical School. The research group of which he is a member is one of only two in Britain funded by the Medical Research Council to study early human embryos.

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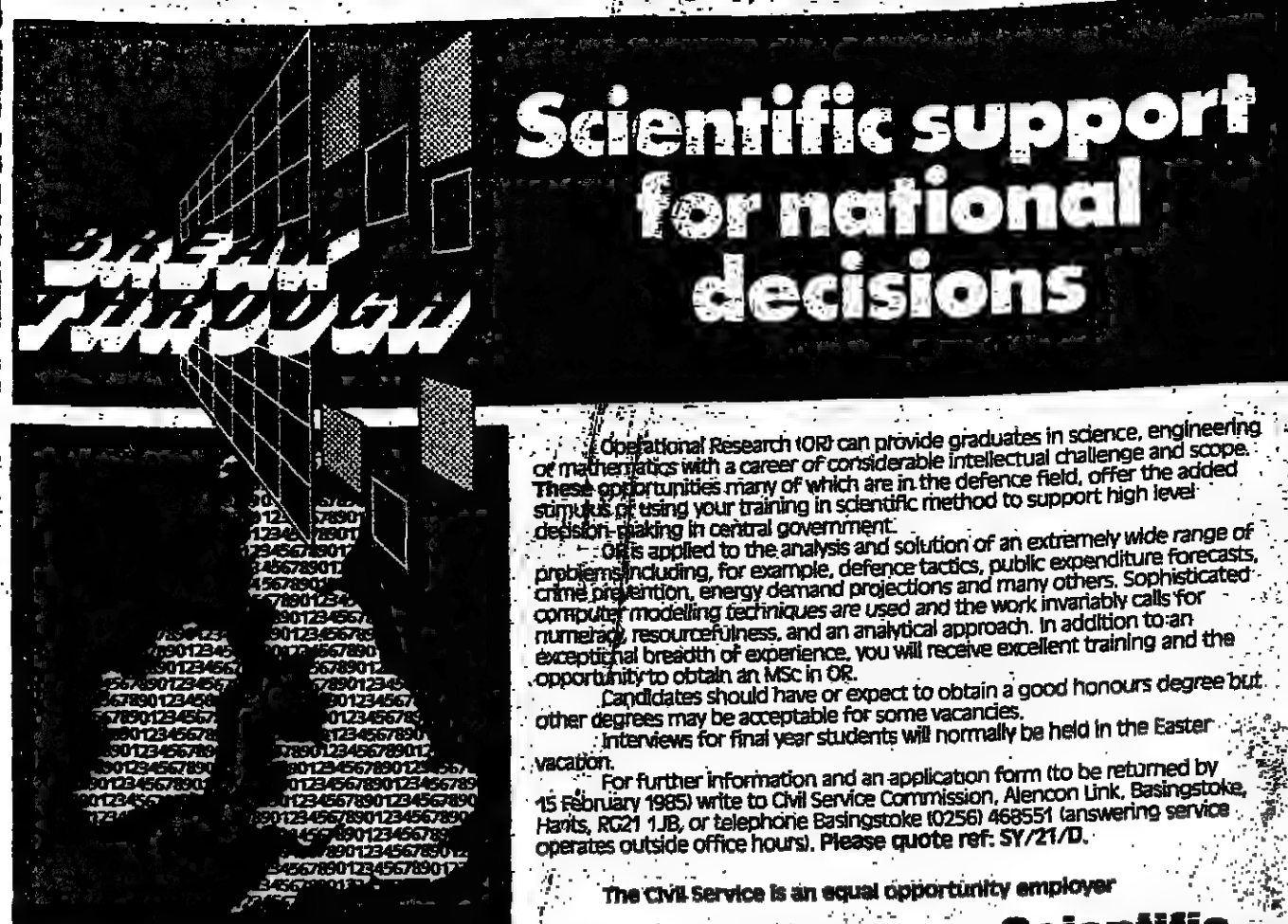
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POSSIBLY the greatest challenge facing modern man is that of securing the best deal when booking an airline flight. Trying to minimise your outlay while at the same time satisfying the various constraints imposed by your schedule and by the different requirements accompanying the numerous special offers seems to require a degree in mathematics at the very least. So, as one whose frequent forays to exotic places tend to be supported by research allowances which appear to be calculated on the basis of travel by bicycle, I gave more than a passing glance to the recent announcement that a young Indian mathematician working at Bell Laboratories had discovered an exciting new method of solving this kind of problem.

The Linear Programming Problem has been around as long as anyone can remember, and arises in all walks of life, particularly in economics, industry, engineering, transport, and defence. You have something you want to optimise (eg. make your costs as low as possible, maximise your profits, increase your chance of survival in some risky venture, etc), and you can achieve this by altering any one or more of a number of parameters, these parameters being subject to various constraints. For example, suppose you own a factory which makes both widgets and woggets, with the current market price of the widget being twice that of the wogget. The manufacture of widgets and woggets require some common raw materials and some unique to each, and your highly skilled workforce can only produce one kind of product at any one time.

Of course you wish to maximise your profit. Ideally you work out which of your two products brings in the greatest profit and just concentrate on that. But life is never so simple. You find that by switching from one to the other every now and then you can maintain your machinery virtually without shutting any part down, then there is the problem of supplied raw materials of the raw materials you require, as well as the storage of the finished products (which, you will realise, involve totally different conditions). And, of course, people tell you that there are constraints on just how many widgets the market can stand without a ready supply of woggets to go with them. To say nothing of potential union problems if you don't tread warily. How on earth do you figure out how to maximise your profit whilst satisfying all of these constraints?

Now imagine a genuine situation which a modern businessman faces every day, where the number of constraints is vastly greater than in the above example. The sheer number of different permutations of the available



Booking a flight: Would it be quicker to take a short cut across the interior of the polytope? (Picture by Martin Argles.)

A linear programming problem is the one that has you tearing your hair out over airline schedules and makes guided missile designers old before their time. Keith Devlin reports on a new answer.

The short-cut solution

options prevents you from adopting the most obvious approach, that of calculating your profit for each possible combination and then simply picking out the best. But provided that all of your constraints are "linear" (that is, if you draw a graph of any one of them it will be a straight line in the case of two parameters, there is a reasonably efficient way of performing the calculation. (The use of the word "linear" in Linear Programming stems from this requirement. Most real life optimisation problems either already are or else can be reformulated as linear programming problems in this sense.)

The method is known as the Simplex Method, and was invented by the American mathematician George Dantzig (now at Stanford University, California) in 1947. Until recently, this method was by far the most successful way of solving linear programming problems, and the major computer manufacturers all supply commercially written programs for performing Dantzig's simplex Algorithm.

The idea behind the Simplex Algorithm is this. You first think of the problem in geometric terms. To take the simplest case first, if the problem only involves two parameters, say x and y , then since the linear equations in two variables represent straight lines on an ordinary graph, the various constraints of your problem correspond to straight lines on a graph.

Now, if you draw a number of straight lines on a piece of paper they will trace out a polygon, a triangle if there are three lines, a quadrilateral with four, a pentagon with five, and so on. The polygon you obtain in this way is a geometric representation of your problem constraints. With the case of three parameters, you get a three-dimensional geometric realisation of the constraints, namely a polyhedron (eg. a tetrahedron, a five-sided "box", or whatever). For greater numbers of parameters the geometric realisation is, of necessity, purely abstract, since more than three dimensions will be necessary: if the problem has

N parameters, the geometric figure corresponding to its constraints will be an N -dimensional "polytope". (Incidentally, this indicates how a mathematical concept as bizarre as a 100-dimensional "polytope" can be of real use to the hard pressed business executive.)

The key to the Simplex Method is the fact that the values of the parameters which give you the optimum solution you require will be the coordinates of one of the vertices (corners) of this polytope. The aim of the Simplex Algorithm is to find this particular vertex.

It does this by starting at one particular vertex (the closer this vertex is to the final optimal vertex the better) and then proceeding from vertex to adjacent vertex until the optimal one is found. In the case of a two parameter problem this is easy, since there is only the choice of "clockwise" or "anticlockwise" to consider, but it is obvious that even a moderately complicated three

dimensional polyhedron offers numerous branching choices of route. The Simplex Algorithm works by making the best choice of route available at each step. (Remember, until it finds it, the algorithm has no idea where the optimal point is, so it cannot just "aim straight at it".)

It is possible to construct artificial problems which result in this approach taking a prohibitively long time to find the optimal vertex, but for most real life problems it seems to work well. And though in the early days of computers it was customary to take a short holiday while the program worked away on a problem with only a few hundred parameters, an efficiently written Assembly Language Simplex Program running on a fast mainframe computer can nowadays handle a typical 1,000 parameter problem in about five minutes.

But for "real time" problems such as the control of aircraft or nuclear power plants, even this is far too long, so mathematicians have

continued to look for a better method. In 1979, the Russian mathematician L. G. Khachiyan discovered an alternative method which is theoretically faster than the Simplex Method, called the Ellipsoid Method, but in practice it performed much slower than the Simplex Method, the advantage only showing up on the artificial examples constructed to beat Simplex.

Then, last year, Dr Narendra Karmarkar, the son of a mathematician, who grew up in Poona and studied for his doctorate at Berkeley, California, before joining Bell Laboratories in New Jersey in 1983, discovered a quite new method of tackling the problem. Tested on a typical 5,000 parameter problem it is a version of Murphy's Law which says that the "typical" problems which arise are always at the limits of the current computational ability. Karmarkar's Algorithm found the solution 50 times faster than a good commercially produced Simplex program (the MPSX/370). Since this latter product is written in Assembly Language and utilises the latest methods of Pipelined computation, whereas Karmarkar's program was just a straightforward FORTRAN program, it can be inferred that the new method is significantly faster than Simplex and will rapidly supersede it, making "real time" control problems feasible.

The key mathematical idea behind Karmarkar's Algorithm is intuitively an obvious one. To go from an initial vertex of the constraint polytope to the optimal one it would be quicker to take a short cut across the interior of the polytope rather than meander along the edges. The problem is that if you try to do this, once you lose contact with the outer surface, then like an astronaut floating in space without a lifeline you can easily go off course. (The more so since you don't know exactly where you should be heading.)

Karmarkar overcomes this difficulty by proceeding in relatively small steps; after each one you perform a mathematical deformation of the interior of the polytope, with the result that in the deformed geometry there is an "obvious" direction to proceed, and you then move in the direction in the original space which corresponds to this. The chosen deformation, in "no time at all" you find you have arrived at the optimal vertex.

Intuitively, the procedure can be thought of as a guided missile, which constantly alters its direction until it homes in on the target. One of the most depressing thoughts is that this will probably be one of the first applications of the new method.

Screen test

Sid Smith reports on the viewdata wrangle

WHEN confronted with the new and original, our first reaction is usually to seek an analogy in the old and familiar. But nothing strikes more toward new in the computer industry than this universal urge is directed against the new technology — especially when the people drawing the analogies are politicians, and when the analogies are of the fearsome type known as legal precedent.

"I cannot see the distinction between Prestel and other forms of broadcast material," said the Minister for Information Technology, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, "Prestel could have the same kind of restrictions on it as any other part of the broadcast media."

"If Mr Pattie hasn't adjusted to the fact that Prestel and similar systems are not the same thing as normal broadcasting," responded Neil Kinnock, "then he disqualifies himself as technology minister."

The stimulus for these disagreements was a row between the Labour Party and British Telecom. Their result is a code of practice which regulates this entire arm of the information technology industry — and which, incidentally, shows that analogies between old technology and new are hazardous for politicians as for computer people.

Geoffrey Pattie's comparison between Prestel and broadcasting has just been overturned in favour of the Kinnock view. But first, for the uninitiated, a few more analogies. Viewdata looks like the BBC's Ceefax service — pages of text and unsuitable graphics which sit on your TV screen. Unlike Ceefax, however, Viewdata travels to the user down the phone lines instead of being broadcast as a TV signal.

That sort of information of course, would be restricted to authorised users only — which is another nice thing you can do with viewdata. But Labour was keen that some of its pages should be open to any Micronet subscriber.

Exactly what happened next is a matter of dispute, though there is no doubt that these public access pages soon joined the rest of Labour's database in a closed user group area.

The Labour Party was certain where the responsibility lay, and the Shadow technology spokesman Jeremy Bray issued a statement accusing the BT Chairman Sir George of an "autocratic and unauthorised" policy directive which effectively banned religious and political advertising on Prestel.

The war on the analogy started here. "When you're looking at Prestel you're looking at a screen," said the Minister. "It would appear to me to be reasonable that you're able to have the same sort of regulatory function in terms of religious and political advertisements what you have with other forms of broadcasting."

"There's a quantitative step," replied Neil Kinnock, "between produced broadcasting that leaves relatively little choice to the consumer, and Prestel which gives an infinity of choice. If Mr Pattie is worried about the partisanship of it, then let the Tories use Prestel as well, then we'll see how dangerous a variety of choice before the public which is the essence of democracy."

Said Geoffrey Pattie, "The analogy in Prestel terms has got to be the same as if things were being put out as paid advertisements on radio and television."

To which Neil Kinnock replied: "Prestel is like newspaper publishing, and the general standards of newspaper advertising — we all see the Advertising Standards Authority posters — could be set, down and easily adhered to."

There was little doubt, meanwhile, about the attitude of the general viewdata industry. If an analogy with newspapers meant less restrictive legislation, went the argument, then by all means let that comparison prevail.

Labour eventually forced a decision on the issue. Unilaterally opening its Micronet pages to public access, the Party threatened an injunction against anyone who dared to close them off again. This challenge was not taken up, and the Home Office has since decided that political advertising on religious advertising on Prestel should be governed by the same Advertising Standards Authority rules which cover newspapers.

Never mind the hype: when Unix arrives as an operating system it won't mean a revolution for the micro, argues Jack Schofield

Waiting for a false dawn

"ALTHOUGH it is not yet widely available for personal computers, Unix is clearly where the micro world is headed, and you will be hearing much more about it in the years to come."

This comment from Alfred Clossbrenner, (How to Buy Software, Perseus 1984), is typical of those made by numerous commentators over the last five years. The Unix operating system has been held up as a sort of promised land for the micro, and the always-imminent arrival has generated more talk — at least within the trade — than almost anything else.

Alas this view is both profoundly and dangerously wrong. Unix will never make a big impact on the single-user micro market. Further, to the extent that it makes any impact, it is against the true spirit of microcomputing.

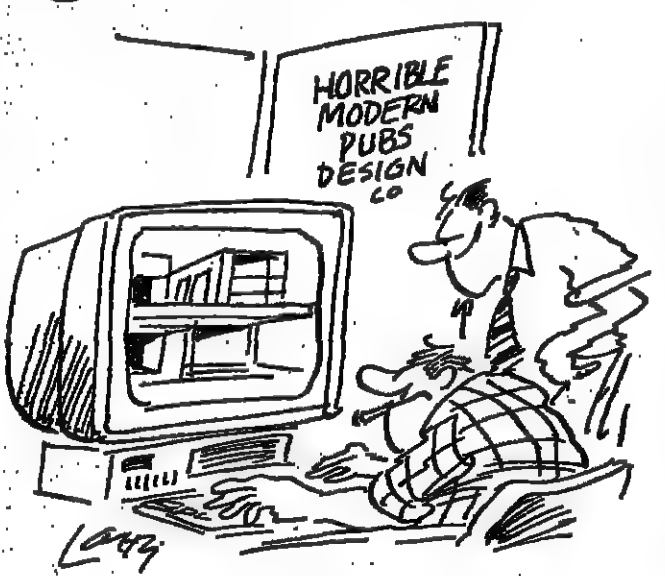
Unix is indeed a powerful, (semi-) portable, multi-user/multi-tasking operating system, and it is backed by the might of the giant AT&T. Nevertheless, the Emperor has no clothes. Pointing this out usually falls to little boys. In this case, however, the finger has been raised by the micro research company International Resource Development Inc, in a 143-page, \$1,285 report.

According to IRD, "Unix will never be anything but a niche standard." It will not take over the mass market. IRD argues that Microsoft's MS-DOS is already so prevalent that the conversion to Unix doesn't make sense; it is cheaper to link micro using a local area network than to bring in a minicomputer or super-micro running Unix to do this; non-Unix operating systems will incorporate the best features of Unix anyway.

"Unix portability is a myth." All of these are good reasons. In fact, Microsoft has already written many Unix-like features into version 2.0 of MS-DOS, and is introducing a networking system with version 3.0. This means you have to add only a hard disc "file-server" to be shared by all the different micros, and suitable interfaces, to create a network.

This route has been taken by ACT with Microsoft's MS-NET on the Apricot. IBM will introduce the same system later this year for its Personal Computer. IBM's PC-DOS operating system and PC-Netware are, of course, also written by Microsoft.

However, all this means little to people who actually want to buy and use Unix. What they need to be told is that Unix is the wrong route, because it flouts the two cardinal requirements of true microcomputing. These are: one "man" one "microprocessor" — bit-mapped graphics.



Unix has other limitations too. First, it requires a very beefy system to run it. Experience suggests that 512K is the real minimum RAM. Further, Unix alone takes up over four megabytes of disc, which means a hard disc system is required. Even though it can be run with about 1.5Mbytes of code, this is still too big for a floppy disc.

Second, almost all of Unix is written in a high-level language called C. So are the Unix programs. While this is economical, C runs slower and is less efficient than assembly language, in which most microcomputer programs are written — or at least optimised.

Third, in spite of claims of "portability," Unix is a rag-bag of operating systems with dozens of different versions. They may be portable in the sense that a software house can "port" (transfer) programs from one system to another. They are not portable in the sense that an ordinary user can do it.

Fourth, as already mentioned, applications software for Unix-based micros is scarce and extremely expensive.

There are many mini-computer-type applications where a supermicro with terminals running Unix makes sense. As IRD points out, Unix will continue to dominate this niche in the market.

What is true is that Unix is not suitable for single-user micros; it is not a panacea to cure all ills; it does not provide anything fundamentally better for the user than today's cheap micros; and it is certainly not the future of microcomputing.

Unix belongs with the dinosaurs. All this talk about "waiting for Unix to arrive" is nonsense.

The future of microcomputing lies with picture — or icon-based systems like the Apple Macintosh which requires bit-mapped graphics. This is the kind of system which makes computers easy to learn and use, and which allows for powerful new ways of doing things. The trend established by Apples Lisa and Macintosh micros — and which was first developed by Xerox — will shortly be followed by similar systems at the low end of the market.

Digital Research's GEM graphics environment manager is one example, due in micros from both Atari and Acorn. Commodore's forthcoming Amiga will offer similar facilities.

Unix is a venerable, not to say antique, operating system written about 15 years ago in AT & T Bell Labs to run on a minicomputer. Then, micros were expensive and it made sense for ten or twenty people to share a computer. Now chips cost from under \$5 to around \$200 it doesn't make sense for each person not to have one or even several.

single 68000 between a dozen people!

The second point is even more fundamental. All successful micros, and all significant microcomputer programs, require the use of memory-mapped graphics. This is where the screen display is actually mapped on to part of the computer's random access memory, RAM, so the whole screen image is in memory at once. This makes it possible to draw pictures and diagrams on the screen and to produce good microcomputer games.

With memory-mapped graphics you can have windows opening into the screen, and all the other fancy effects used by today's most useful programs such as Microsoft's Word, Ashton Tate's Framework and dBase III, and all the latest integrated packages.

By contrast, Unix assumes that the screen is a glass typewriter. You can go back over the line you are on, but not up or down. As you enter new lines, the old ones simply scroll off the top.

It is possible to add a "front end" or "shell" to provide a friendlier screen display. Fortune — just about the only company offering a serious Unix-based micro for one to four users — spent millions of dollars doing just this.

What this means is that a graphics-orientated micro costing \$1,000 or so will today's 25,500 desk-top models. (Look at the advances between Sinclair's ZX-80 and four years on, the QL and that seems a certainty). But they won't be running Unix to do it.

Nor is this something new. Five years ago people started buying Apple II's to run VisiCalc because it could do something useful that 250,000 minis could not. Before that, the whole microcomputer explosion came when people discovered that a mini could do things that a mainframe could not, even though it cost only one tenth as much. In the next five years, expect to see 255 machines that surpass today's 25,500 desk-top models. (Look at the advances between Sinclair's ZX-80 and four years on, the QL and that seems a certainty). But they won't be running Unix to do it.

The IRD report suggests about 72,000 Unix-based supermicros were sold in 1984, and predicts sales of around 240,000 in 1985. By comparison, over four million MS-DOS and PC-DOS micros are already in use, with sales of over a million a year expected through 1988. In other words, the battle to make Unix the "standard" has already been lost. It's time we debunked the propaganda war about the wonders of Unix as well.

Unix Markets, report 626, IRD Inc, 6 Provost Street, Norwich, CT 06855, USA.

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Reform plans for social security payments are being discussed in unprecedented secrecy. DAVID HENCKE reports

The concealed benefits of Mr Norman Fowler

THE REFORM of Britain's £40 billion a year social security system is one of the most crucial decisions to be taken by the Thatcher Government this year. Yet the handling of proposals to change the system are showing that the Government is now more concerned with their presentation than their content.

Reports from the Department of Health show a concern for unprecedented secrecy to the detriment of discussing the merits or demerits of a system which affects nearly half the population of Britain.

After setting up inquiries into pensions, supplementary benefit, and children's benefits all chaired by themselves, DRSS ministers have proceeded to limit discussions within the Department of Health.

Only one inquiry, that into housing benefit, stands a

chance of publication and then only as an annex to a White Paper already announcing the Government's intentions. Publication is at present scheduled for early March.

For the rest of the reviews, ministers have put together papers that barely resemble an inquiry report. Since they are the chairmen of the committees—they probably feel that this is unnecessary, but for the public and claimants looking for an argued case about the future of supplementary benefit or one parent benefits this does not bode well.

The concern for excessive secrecy manifested itself in striking terms in the discussion that has followed the reviews. Under the original proposals Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, had already decided to set up a coordinating committee under Mrs Anne Bowtell, an able under-secretary, with

wide experience of the supplementary benefit system, fuel policy, the homeless and housing benefit, to draw together the new White Paper.

He decided to hold a 10-day conference at Wilton Park in Sussex with hand-picked civil servants to discuss what to do next. His press officers proposed a release announcing the conference. Mr Fowler instead decreed that the conference must remain a top secret, scuttled the press release, and put one of the highest classifications "secret" on the conference agenda.

The classification of the agenda as secret means that if the information and material were published "the unauthorised disclosure would cause serious injury to the interests of the nation." Such a classification is normally used to cover background papers to foreign treaties, highly sensitive economic in-

formation and defence details.

As a result most civil servants were not even to be told of the titles of the sessions in the big country house. Only about half a dozen civil servants were invited by Mr Fowler to join him and other ministers for the whole conference. The rest of the civil servants were invited to attend only for the sessions where they had a direct interest. Once the session was over they were despatched by train back to the Department of Health's headquarters at the Elephant and Castle.

According to one civil servant the only exchange of information took place in the gentleman's lavatory. Nor have all the papers been made available to the select few. One particularly alarming proposal on the future of the pensions scheme was read by headquarters and ordered to be destroyed immediately.

Ministers have ordered all the other pension papers to be renumbered so that no trace of the offending document exists.

Despite this ministers do have an inkling of the way they want the social security system reformed — and at present does not look like good news for millions of claimants. They still have a long way to go in costing individual options — which is why no firm proposals have yet been leaked. Ministers have also to get their programme through the Treasury and the Cabinet.

At best claimants can hope that the view of Mr Tony Newton, the social security minister as "Mr Nice" will prevail and they will only suffer a redistribution of the £40 billion from the "undeserving" to the "deserving" poor.

At worst Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will want some £3 to £4 billion from benefit savings so he can pay

for tax cuts in the years 1986 and 1987 without the need to worry about economic growth. The major proposals under review will involve big changes to pensions, child benefit, housing benefit and supplementary benefit.

The housing benefit review has recommended a substantial simplifying of the "so called simplified" scheme, enough for some of its members to boast about scrapping the system. But ministers are at present having to weigh up how far they can go in simplifying cutting the provisions for determining people's benefit entitlement. The pensions inquiry, which presents its proposals as "issue papers," balances up the drawbacks and benefits of scrapping the enhanced state scheme which comes into force in 1998.

Mr Fowler already has detailed proposals reported in the Guardian in 1983, to worsen the terms of a new

scheme by cutting back widows' benefits so he may not need to scrap it.

Mr Fowler is also keen on considering whether the basic pensions needs to rise in line with inflation in the 21st century and has even been impressed with an American case to raise the pension age.

Plans to introduce a two tier child benefit system — a higher benefit for the poor — and a taxed benefit for the middle classes have still to be properly costed.

One chapter of the White Paper that has already been written and should be guaranteed to be published is a history of the social security system from Beveridge to the present day. Mr Fowler is determined that his plans should be seen in the context of 40 years of the Welfare State. Whether his proposals will go down as a serious historical event remain to be seen.

Mark Tran reports from Washington on the end of an era

Colt goes West

THE US Army has at last accepted what Ian Fleming had been telling them for years. The Pentagon has decided to ditch the venerable Colt 45 in favour of the distinctly less macho Italian Beretta 9mm handgun as the standard issue for officers, military police and other personnel who carry sidearms. In announcing its choice, which ended years of wrangling, the army said the Beretta was lighter, safer, more accurate and more reliable than the .45 that the army has been using since 1911.

The shootout between the Beretta, long favoured by spy hero James Bond, and the .45 sparked major disagreements in Congress and the army with opponents citing cost, tradition and the gun's less virile image. "You can see it's more delicate," an army public affairs officer said as he pointed to design differences in the two guns. He quickly added, "No, that's wrong, word — don't use that word."

The .45 became the standard pistol for the army after the US quelled an insurrection in the Philippines during the early 1900s. But the Colt name stretches back to the days of the American West when its pistols were used by gunfighters, cowboys and the army. With such a long association with American culture, the decision to break with the Colt was not an easy one for those involved.

The demise of the Colt .45, in this instance, springs from a desire to rationalise the use of sidearms throughout the US Army. A study by the house appropriations subcommittee on defence, in 1978, discovered that the military used over 25 different types of handguns and more than 100 types of ammunition. The subcommittee duly instructed the military to standardise, and the Pentagon opted for the 9mm. The Beretta will also bring the US military into line with other Nato countries, most of which use 9mm guns.

But in a rearguard battle, members of the house armed services committee told the army they did not share the concerns of their colleagues on the appropriations subcommittee. They questioned the need to spend so much on new guns — the transition will cost over \$200 million — when the .45 seemed adequate and they expressed concern at the prospect of a foreign company muscling in.

However, after months of tests, the guns were dropped in mud, sand and water, shooting them 5,000 times each — the army selected the Beretta. To sweeten the pill, the company will manufacture at least 134,000 guns in the US.

The .45 has nostalgic appeal for some officers, but others have complained about its inaccuracy, its heavy kick, its weight and its safety features. As one retired marine put it, "I'm sure that thing has shot more Americans than enemy."

A nationalist, he is happier with direct rule from London than a system of devolved power "because that would be in the hands of people like Ian Paisley."

But the future prospects are not bright. "Labour are great when in opposition but when in power they have walked all over us," he said. "At least you know where you stand with Mrs Thatcher: she hates our guts."



Bob Geldof: now the Ethiopians know its Christmas. Picture by Martin Argles

Bob Geldof masterminded a record sum for famine relief. He talks to WALDEMAR JANUSZCZAK

The Band Aid envoy in the Ethiopian wasteland

A DAY is currently an awfully long time in the life of one Robert Geldof, lead singer of the Boomtown Rats. No sooner had he stepped out of the plane from Addis Ababa than he was ushered into yet another BBC studio, only this time there was Eamonn Andrews with his hand out and that horrible red book under his arm. "Bob Geldof — you thought you were participating in it," Andrews said.

Geldof saw his entire life flash past his eyes long before the rest of us saw it on our screens. His friends had been taking bets that he would refuse to do the programme. But someone pushed him in from behind and there was no escape.

"The worst thing is that you find yourself making the same stupid faces that everyone else makes. There you are waiting for some prick that you can't stand to come on and you have to pretend that you're really pleased to see them."

He should by now be used to unexpected welcomes.

When he arrived in Addis Ababa at the start of his eight-day reconnaissance visit to see how best to spend the proceeds of the phenomenally successful Band Aid single, which he co-wrote and masterminded, he was met at the airport by an official delegation from the Ethiopian government, diplomats from the British Embassy, representatives from all the aid agencies, "and a little girl with flowers which is very weird because I'm not Princess Anne."

"The first thing he did there was to take the country's Relief Commissioner for an eight kilometre walk to tell him exactly what he was doing wrong. The British journalists in Addis quickly coined a phrase for it — punk diplomacy."

In Addis for instance there was a "ridiculous" exhibition of Soviet youth. "What has Soviet youth done for them? Whereas Western youth have given \$3 million."

In fact Western youth, and its uncles, aunts, parents, and grandmothers has not only taken Bob Geldof and his big mouth to its heart but also bought 3.2 million copies of Don't They Know It's Christmas, making it the biggest selling single of all time. It has already earned the ragtag group of pop stars who made up Band Aid three platinum records. And it earned Geldof the right to swan around Ethiopia saying whatever he wanted to whoever he wanted.

"The colour I always associate with communism is grey. It seemed a terrible dichotomy that people as full of life as the Ethiopians should be saddled with such a dull grey exterior. They had better get their act together."

Whether Ethiopia's revolutionary Marxist government enjoyed being told to get its

act together by a punk pip-squeak from Ireland, I doubt, but they granted him his every wish and allowed him to go wherever he chose.

The Ethiopian officials he spoke to were particularly impressed by the fact that the Band Aid relief effort was not government backed. It bore out their view that people in the West want to help but that their governments were obstructive. This angered Geldof who found himself involved in several fierce stand-up rows with the "comrades."

Nevertheless when he wanted a plane to take him to Lalibela they got him a DC3 in two hours. Other journalists had been trying to get there for three weeks.

It was here in the ancient home of the Coptic church that he got his first dose of the real problems of Ethiopia. In Addis he stayed along with the other journalists and relief workers, at the Hilton, and food was relatively plentiful. Here they still use the Julian calendar

and by chance he arrived on Christmas Eve in the midst of eerie, early Christian celebrations. Among the crouching figures praying in churches dug out of solid rock he stumbled over his first dead bodies.

"You do useless things like cry and feel terrible despair and rage. And then you sort of wander off by yourself and try to come to terms with the staggering, horrible enormity of what you've seen. A child squatting in its own diarrhoea and it has nothing left to shit except its own stomach. The noise starts up at about four in the morning. People coughing and spitting and moaning. They wake up, start using calories, and they die."

In one of those loud and rather unsavoury phrases in which he specialises, he describes it as being like the first soldier through the gates at Belsen. Except that this was an entire country.

He refused to be photographed passing among the starving children in a safari suit.

The least you can give people when they die is dignity. What about those people who accuse him of naivety or self-publicity?

"I didn't question my own role. I question that it should happen at all. I know that if I went there it would create publicity. And perhaps encourage more donations."

However, if there are any rich people who read the Guardian, he continues, apologising if this again sounds naive, would they please help. After all the millionaire Arab industrialist Adnan Khashoggi just phoned him up and offered him a plane to fly stuff into Sudan. So if anyone out there has a ship, or a water

drilling rig.

He's also met with representatives of both ERA, the Eritrean separatist group, and the Tigray rebels, and the Tigre rebels, and will be taking aid to both groups, via Sudan, mumbles Britain's first punk statesman, adjusting the safety-pin that holds his trousers together.

He tells another story of meeting a convicted IRA member whilst shopping in Marks and Spencer. The man had spent six years inside the Maze. "His wife and child were sticking to him like limpets. He won't offend."

West Belfast MP Mr Gerry Adams said recently after criticism from the Roman Catholic leadership, that it ill became the Church to attack the Sinn Féin-IRA philosophy when it didn't have anything itself to offer.

Fr Faul thinks that if there was a steady release of prisoners then the Church would have something substantial with which to go to the people, proving that there is an alternative to the violence of the paramilitaries.

A nationalist, he is happier with direct rule from London than a system of devolved power "because that would be in the hands of people like Ian Paisley."

But the future prospects are not bright. "Labour are great when in opposition but when in power they have walked all over us," he said. "At least you know where you stand with Mrs Thatcher: she hates our guts."

Father on the front line



Father Denis Faul

AMID the jumble of theological books in French, English and German, civil rights pamphlets, newspapers, cuttings and folders stuffed with official correspondence, is a cardboard box, full of handwritten letters addressed to Fr Denis Faul, Dungannon.

He picks one out at random. It is from a young Roman Catholic who claims that he was walking home from his girlfriend's house one night when he was stopped by the police. The man, whose brother had been in trouble, says he was made to lie on the ground, the barrel of a gun was put into his ear and he was told to start talking. "For the clergyman it is a pretty ruin-of-the-mill complaint. He will pass it on in

the way he has 1,500 or so others about the police and army over the past 14 years. And probably the same thing will happen as it has in every other case: nothing."

Fr Faul, who was instrumental in ending the prison hunger strike might be Northern Ireland's best known priest, but he is certainly not the most popular. At one time he carried the tag "The Provo priest." Now when he goes on a Sunday to say Mass at the Maze prison, the Republican paramilitaries of the IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army walk out, still bitter about his role at the climax of the hunger strike protests and his outspoken condemnation of violence.

He has hardly endeared himself either to the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the British Army. As well as acting as a channel for the constant flow of complaints about the security forces, he has come out with pretty forthright advice to fellow Roman Catholics.

Last month, for instance there was a row after he offered the opinion that any Catholic going to a police station should take a solicitor with him. The lawyer had to be there, he argued, to deter policemen from pressurising them into turning out and passing on information or gossip about

friends, neighbours and relatives.

This month there was another dispute when he and a fellow priest published a closely argued pamphlet making the case that for the killing to stop in Northern Ireland there had to be a gradual release of prisoners from the gaols.

Freeing men and women who committed crimes perhaps more than a decade ago and who could be adjudged no longer a danger to society, would be the way to beat the terrorists. It would provide a sense of hope for many families and lessen the hold that the paramilitaries have on those families whose sons and daughters are behind bars. "Naive" and "crackers" were two of the kinder responses from Unionist politicians.

Fr Faul has become a one man civil rights campaign, not so much speaking as shouting out about matters which many of the more safety conscious in Northern Ireland would remain reticent on. The 52-year-old cleric has taught at St Patrick's Academy in the grey County Tyrone town of Dungannon, the heart of what has been called the murder triangle of Northern Ireland for the past 26 years.

He first attracted widespread attention in 1959 with the claim that Catholics felt

PAUL JOHNSON meets the Roman Catholic Priest who upsets all sides in Northern Ireland

the province's judicial system was against them. Sixteen years on and that might be regarded as a truism. At the time it brought criticism not only from the government but also a rebuke from the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the person of Cardinal Conway. Fr Faul was told to keep quiet. The silence lasted about two weeks.

He lives in part of an old school house, working from a room crammed with books and papers, the sound of helicopters going back and forth from the nearby UDR base, a constant reminder of the military presence.

To understand Northern Ireland you need to get the worm's eye view," he says, screwing his eyes shut as if picking his words carefully. "And to get that view you need to ask the Catholic: he is the worm."

The belief is that the Catholics of Northern Ireland are alienated by a legal system that is partial, the Protestant-dominated UDR and RUC, the use of plastic bullets and discrimination in jobs and housing.

Spilling out a succession of names, he says that many families have become what he calls "prisoners of the Provos." When a young man is in prison they come around saying: "What are you doing to help?" That way people are pushed to going on marches, voting and even providing safe houses.

The results can be tragic. He cites an example: "There was this young boy of 21 from Lenadown in Belfast. He had a brother in prison and the IRA said you cannot just ignore it, you have to do your bit."

It seems he may have joined. One three weeks later the RUC took him in for questioning. Perhaps he talked because a gun was found in Lenadown. Then the IRA took him away for interrogation. He was found dead, shot in the head.

Meetings of relatives he organised during the autumn of 1981 were seen as instrumental in bringing about the end of the hunger strike. There were claims from Sinn Féin that he had put pressure on those relatives to request medical intervention.

Then, as now, he believes that the family is the key to the problem. If you can get to the families, let the men see how important the family life is and how empty life is in prison. "The only people

who can beat the IRA are the Catholics not the soldiers or the RUC."

He tells another story of meeting a convicted IRA member whilst shopping in Marks and Spencer. The man had spent six years inside the Maze. "His wife and child were sticking to him like limpets. He won't offend."

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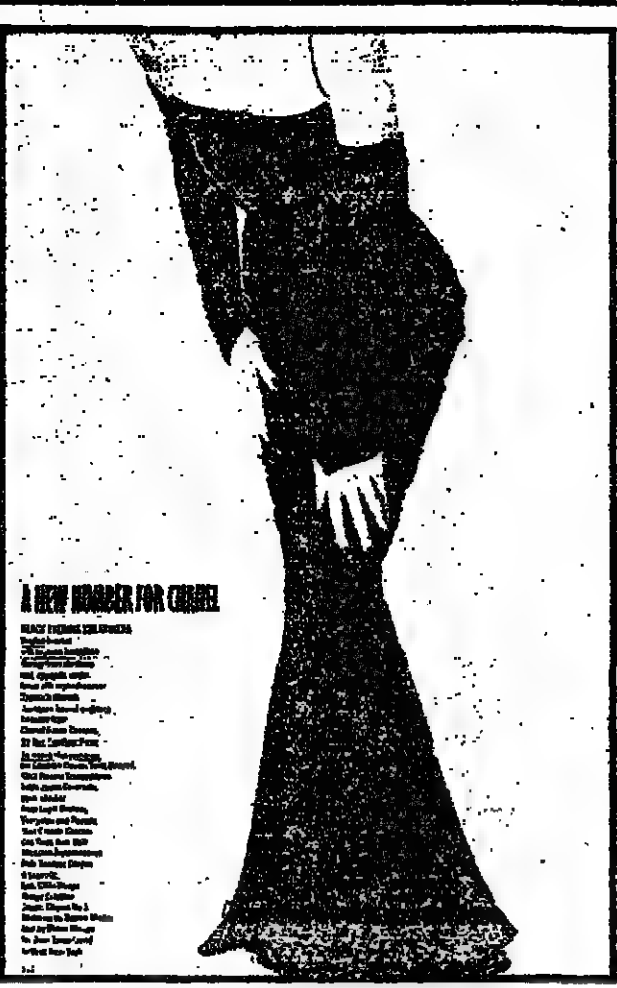
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Dead flowers in an English country garden — picture by Bruce Weber

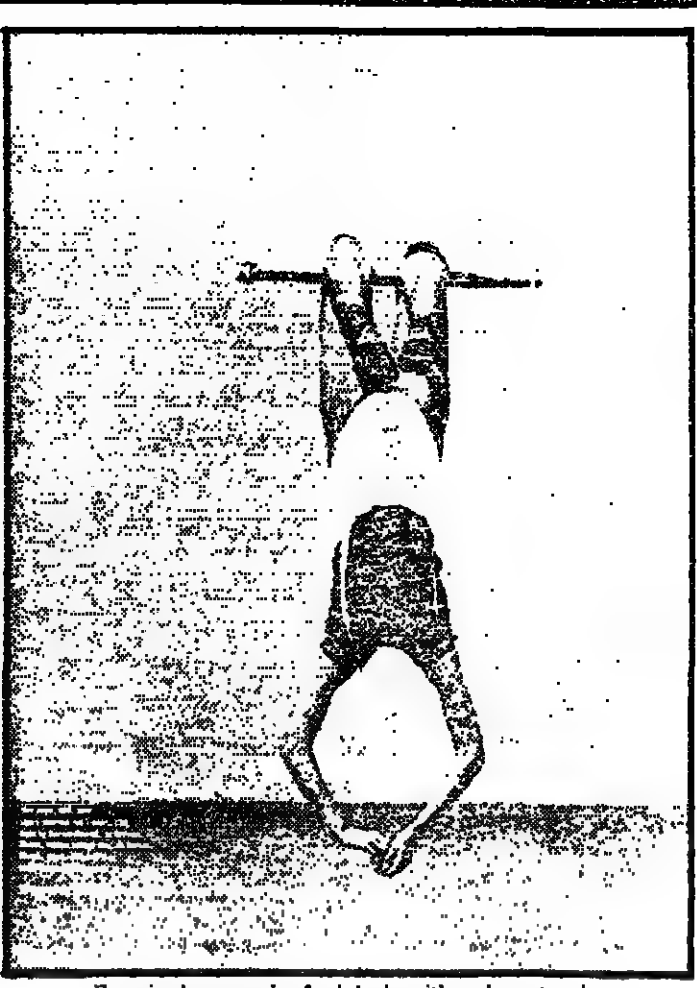


A NEW MONROE FOR CLOUTIER

After Monroe, the renaissance of haute couture and bugle beads — picture by Bruce Weber



Body language: thirties naturism meets eighties leanness — picture by Bruce Weber



Exercise boom and a fresh look, with a circus touch, at beachwear — picture by Patrick Demarchelier

Of Conde Nast's international family of Vogue magazines, the British version is seen as the most creative. In the last of her series on the stylists whose pictures shape fashion, Brenda Polan describes the influence of the magazine's fashion director, Grace Coddington

The designers' designer

THE Paris-based designer, Karl Lagerfeld, has no doubts about Grace Coddington. "I think she is a genius," he says. "Each season I wait to see what she will do with my clothes and, when I see, there is always something to learn. It is very stimulating for a designer to be shown new potentials in his own work."

Grace, of course, dismisses the genius label with the twitch of a fine eyebrow. It's not a bashful show of modesty; it is an expression of that dislike of extravagance and glib overstatement which is part of her personality and which is apparent in her work. "My instinct is to simplify," she says. "I cannot pile on the leg warmers, the bits and pieces, the jewellery and eccentric decorative pieces in the way Caroline Baker can. She does it brilliantly, but the fashion magazines are full of pictures where, stylized, fashion editors, have tried to do the same and ended up with a mess."

"They seem to think that that is what a fashion editor does. They are wrong. Being a fashion editor is editing it down, not piling it on. Which does not mean that I don't like having a bit of fun with the pictures. For the English woman pictures in December Vogue, I wanted a Bloomsbury/Vita Sackville-West mood, the Englishwoman in her beloved late-autumn garden, and the idea of gardening the models with dead flowers arose during discussions with the photographer and the hair stylist. I think they make rather lyrical pictures, strong images — and no one could imagine Vogue was advocating dead flowers as the latest accessory."

There is a wry wit and an unlaboured pointedness to the pictures, as well as the symbolism of flowers and the history of Bloomsbury brought into play in a manner which can be recognised and appreciated or left unnoted as the observer pleases.

Photographic sessions take months of planning, meetings and discussions with the photographer, the hairdresser, the make-up artist, trips around fashion company showrooms to choose the clothes and make sure the samples will arrive in time hours seeing models and more hours making travel and accommodation arrangements for everyone involved. The sitting itself may take a week. Such is the perfectionism of everyone working on the project (and such is the importance to them of their exposure in Vogue) that on some days only one picture will be successfully created, although there may be a dozen rolls of exposed film of that one garment.

"I rely on the photographer to work with me on a story from the earliest stage of an idea. I like the result to be more than just a fashion statement, otherwise it is boring. Very often there is a story behind a fashion moment. Very often there is a link between what is happening in fashion and what is happening in other visual art forms — a Matisse exhibition, a new book of photographs of African tribesmen, for instance."

Grace was born in North Wales, the second daughter of a couple who ran a hotel (her own not quite serious dream is to quit the fashion world one day to run a country house hotel). Convent school educated, she left home at 17 to work as an au pair in Manchester and then quickly moved on to London with the vague ambition of becoming a model.

She took a job in a coffee bar, the Stock Pot in Beal Street, in order to pay her way through a course at the Cherry Marshall model school, and entered a Vogue model competition. Before the results were announced (she won) she had already done her first set of pictures with Norman Parkinson. Although a car crash a year later put her out of action for 18 months (her face had been badly injured and required plastic surgery) she was to become one of the world's top models. "I was not famous like Jean Shrimpton, but I was one of the few models who was always in work. Unfortunately, it was always editorial work, not advertising, so I never got rich."

Models have short professional lives and there always comes a point, sooner rather than later, when they have to plan a second career. "I had never thought ahead," says Grace. "I had always rather assumed that I would get married and be terribly rich. In 1968 I had just returned from living in France, having split up with my boy friend, and I was pretty miserable. I started to go out with Michael Chow and then Bea Miller offered me a job as a junior editor at Vogue."

"It was confusing going to Vogue. As a model I knew that you went to a studio or off on



Grace Coddington — picture by Bruce Weber

location and these clothes were there and someone had chosen them and you did your best for them. But I had never realised how much work there was behind the scenes. The editor's job is not just a matter of making the model look nice — which is often how the model perceives it; the editor is also a travel agent and nanny, a provider of refreshments, comfort, and reassurance."

In addition, the way she looked, combined with an apparently steely composure, overruled many of the people she had to work with. "A lot of people," she remembers, "were quite intimidated by me; some people found me really scary. My appearance had something to do with it. In the sixties, models dressed the part. I was terribly fashion conscious and never went out unless I was thoroughly dressed up and properly made up."

Today her personal style is as ruthlessly edited and pared down as her professional style. She finds it difficult to wear anything which is not designed by Azzedine Alaïa; she had, she said, worn a shirt the day before and had felt strangely clumsy all day. "My personal taste in clothes is usually pretty body-bugging; I don't like to disguise the fact that the body is body-shaped. I believe that if you get into a loose, floppy dress, your body will soon get loose and floppy, and I think it is important not to be fat."

"I love eating so most of the time I eat normally, but when it is necessary, I go on a drastic, non-allergy diet eating nothing but apples and

bananas and drinking only herb tea. If you travel a lot, you have to be careful about your health and you do have to learn to trust your body. If you start craving a lot of sugar and chocolate, it is probably because your body needs the energy."

If Grace Coddington has attracted any criticism, it is not for the quality of her work but for what certain sections of the British fashion industry have, with a touch of paranoia, defined as a kind of xenophobia. British Vogue, they argue, is highly regarded throughout the world; it should give more support to the British industry. The truth is that Coddington refuses absolutely to apply different standards or to compromise for the sake of patriotism.

"I am very critical of clothes," she says. "If a garment does not work 100 per cent, I will not use it. I will not shoot a garment which looks good at the front but peculiar or boring at the back. There is no cheating with bulldog clips or double-sided Sellotape on my slittings, either. I do not like making clothes lie, by changing their shape or otherwise doctoring them to fit my ideas. They either work or they don't."

She was among the first to champion the American style of dress which emerged at the end of the seventies. "Calvin Klein could have had me in mind when he put his collections together. I loved the sparseness of his clothes and I felt incredibly comfortable in them. There was, at that time, a refreshing sense of control and consistency to American collections because the

'designers' are not really designers but editors. They don't pile on the ideas in indiscriminate profusion. They refine a look."

She now oversees the work of a total of 11 editors and junior editors on Vogue. She may be amazed that anyone was ever intimidated by her, but the young women who work for her still refer to her in tones of once affectionate, respectful and, I am afraid, awed. The world holds fewer greater joys than that of a PR who has succeeded in capturing Coddington's attention for her product. She is, in her quiet, reserved way, the most powerful stylist/fashion editor on the British scene, if not the international one.

She seems unaware of the power. Her thoughts are on the pleasure. "Among fashion editors," she says, "I have the best job in the world. All jobs have their drawbacks and mine are the logistics of arranging a sitting and the strain of being the peace-maker between warring egos, the focus of much creative temperament. But within limits I have great creative freedom and the enormous satisfaction of seeing ideas become pictures on a page. Pictures that people talk about."

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A POINT of clarification; the sweater kit featured in last week's Style File is a single shade garment and comes in a choice of three colours (not a combination as some readers have inferred). They are black, bright pink, or bright sea green.

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Too many people are trying to make too much capital out of obesity, suggests Clare Moynihan

Outside every fatty there's a host of predators trying to work their way in

OBESITY has become an epidemic. Not only are we warned that fat may incur health risks but a fear of fat is known to evoke gross psychological and social disturbance. To be obese is to be a social outcast in childhood and adult life.

The intensity of shame may

only be understood by recognising the extreme ostracism and hatred to which fat children are subjected. They are described by "normal" children as cheap, dirty, stupid, mean, ugly, and stupid. The impact this has on the child is probably irreversible, leading to self hatred, anxiety, and self doubt in anyone who is even moderately overweight. Discrimination is exercised by teachers and college interviewers against obese adolescents, affecting female applicants more severely than males.

Overweight girls, with their obsessive concern about body fat, may be compared to chronic victims of racial prejudice and anti-semitism. Every woman is aware of the social pressures to conform to a lean image relentlessly portrayed by the media.

A recent report by the Royal College of Physicians suggested that 30 per cent of the British population is overweight. Mr John Patten, the Health Secretary, has said that "many, including young people, are overweight and might need to take action to reduce weight and avoid ill health." The definition of overweight does not, however, just include the grossly fat. Something called "mild to moderate obesity" has appeared this century in medical and lay literature, reinforcing the belief that obesity has become an epidemic and a major health problem in Western society.

There are, however, difficulties in studying and assessing human body fat. At what point does somebody become dangerously fat? The definition of obesity in adults is

currently based on data accrued by American insurance companies. The weight range for each height category which is associated with the lowest mortality rate in an insured population is taken as the standard. Individuals who are 10 per cent more than the standard are considered to be overweight; to be more than 20 per cent is to be obese, and it is at this point that there is said to be a 31 per cent greater mortality risk than for those of "normal" size.

But until the turn of the century, thin people were at risk of dying. Because of the high prevalence of TB, life insurance companies were insisting that they pay higher premiums. As TB became curable and then almost extinct, the insurance companies found that their death claims were indicating higher mortality among their heaviest policy holders, and extra premiums could be legitimately charged. But those who provide insurance companies with evidence are a self-selected group, and insurance policies do not necessarily provide accurate information about the insured. It is normal for insurance applicants not to disclose any extra risks he or she may know of or suspect, and many people "rated" because of overweight may be bad risks in other respects unknown to insurance companies.

During the late 1930s when American life insurance companies were re-considering their definitions of what was "ideal," it was decided to use the weight of individuals at 25 years. But in most human populations, individuals go

on increasing their weight until they are about 50.

Systematic revisions have been made by insurance companies, bringing "ideals" down for women. A 1926 weight chart indicates a 5ft 4in woman with a weight of 131lb as being average between the ages of 25 and 29 (this chart allows for age difference). Today the ideal weight for women of the same height is 115lb regardless of age. The widely used standard definition used today by clinicians and lay people alike puts the average man at the edge of obesity while the average woman is obese. Research at the time the new insurance company recommendations were made, did not support this downward trend. Data suggested instead that "ideal" standard weights should have been raised. It does look as though the epidemic of obesity has been created largely by the lowering of "ideals."

Population studies have shown that insurance company predictions have usually not been confirmed. Lowest mortality rates have been shown to be associated with average weights for sex and age consistently greater than any existing standards for "ideal." The relationship between mortality rates and relative body weight appears to be U-shaped: individuals who are significantly below or above average weights appear to be at greatest risk.

Could it be that our images of "ideal" body weight reflects a cultural bias which serves certain interests other than our own? There exists a thriving industry based on fear of fatness: included are

the life insurers, the low calorie recipes and artificial sweeteners in the food market, the drug manufacturers who control our appetites, and the weight specialists who, knowing that therapy of any kind is by and large a useless exercise, will nevertheless dole out expensive treatments to anxious "patients." They are not simply dealing with the "massively obese" but with the mild to moderately obese who, as they exceed spurious "ideal standards," make up the bulk of those who seek therapy.

These contradictions are seldom given a public airing. Instead, we are told that obesity lies in the individual's over-indulgence and/or sloth. But evidence shows that obese people do not, on average, eat more than anyone else and may eat less.

Recent surveys of eating patterns and styles have produced no evidence that the obese differ from the lean in the timing, duration, speed of consumption, or consumption of meals. As greediness does not cause obesity, it has been suggested that fat people must be physically less active and therefore lazy. While some studies have shown this to be so, as many find no difference. Any evidence that supports the inactivity theory is in itself spurious since it relates to people who are already fat. Inactivity may lend itself to the perpetuation of obesity but not to its cause. There is no known cause of overweight and, with the exception of treatments more dangerous than obesity itself, there is no known cure.

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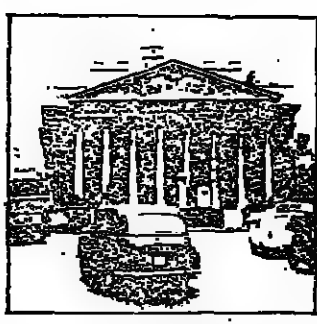
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Where gilts are concerned, it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

THE FOREIGN exchange markets quietened down yesterday, and there is no immediate reason to suspect that the pound's plunge will be resumed. Indeed, the view

of Mrs Thatcher on Woman's Hour yesterday that sterling was undervalued — a view consistent with the purchasing power parity calculations on the opposite page — may even encourage the market to perk up a bit. If that were so, it would be the first occasion that an excellent radio programme has been a significant factor in the arcane world of foreign exchange. Forget about Reuters and Teletext: just tune into Woman's Hour.

Today, though the fun will be in the gilt market. We will get the PSBR figures for December and the market would be sensible to expect them to be stinkers. The Treasury has been aware of an unexpectedly adverse trend in public spending for a few weeks now and Mr Lawson's recent comments on the public sector's finances suggest that these figures will be at the worst end of the expected range. The financial year still has

two-and-a-half months to run and anyway, they always seem to get the number hopelessly wrong until at least a couple of months after the end of the financial year. But that will not deter the gurus of the gilt market from making their calculations down to the second decimal point, and it seems sensible to expect that the whole range of forecasts will shift upwards. An outcome of well over £10 billion is clearly by no means impossible.

Now the PSBR is such an artificial figure that in an economic sense it does not matter much what it is. It is not where you are that matters; it is how you get there. But it would be helpful to the market and equity markets as well as gilts — to be reminded of the Government's increased funding needs. It is interesting to see just how buoyant equities were yesterday once the spectre of a third round of base rate rises exceeded.

Gilts were much more muted, but they are first in the firing line.

Compromise

THE Bank of England is absolutely right to delay the unwrapping of its proposal for the new, post big bang, gilt market, as the Stock Exchange decision on membership will be absolutely crucial to all potential primary market dealers. The exchange's council has reached an outline agreement on what it sees as a fair compromise between the interests of the large broking firms (now to a greater or lesser extent part of financial conglomerates) and the smaller firms intent on rebellion.

But it makes sense to give both present and potential members the opportunity to study the full implications of the membership. While every new conglomerate or partnership has said it intends to

make a market in gilts, it stretches credibility that all these potential players will be able to last the course.

In fact the Bank does not have a set view on how the new gilt market must develop. What it feels it must do is to set out a framework for day one after the big bang. The market itself will then gradually sort itself out into sheep and goats. What the Bank has to do is to make sure that potential sheep are given the opportunity to be sheep (so to speak) and not classified as goats from the start. That is why the conditions for primary dealerships will have to be drawn to include all the potential serious players. Whether in the end that should be the most appropriate one for the rumoured 80 houses which have expressed interest is very doubtful. Indeed, if New York experience is anything to go by we will be lucky if we end up with a dozen. And of course, inter-

broker-dealer status may prove more profitable. Finally it is worth adding that it is still not inevitable that the new gilt market will end up inside the Stock Exchange. It will start there, but largely for reasons of inertia and protection rather than any logical market rationale.

Helpful move

THE US Treasury Under-Secretary, Mr Beryl Sprinkel, is likely to be shuffled aside to the post of chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, perhaps as soon as the end of the week. Mr Sprinkel is a stout opponent of intervention in international exchange markets to avert currency fluctuations, and has tangled with his boss, Donald Regan, on the issue.

Accordingly, he takes a dim view of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Mr Sprinkel's move to the CEA would neatly dovetail recent top level changes. It would probably make it easier for the new Treasury Secretary, James Baker, to implement what are expected to be pragmatic policies to bring down the budget deficit. At the same time, Mr Sprinkel's departure for the CEA will certainly be an improvement, as far as the Administration is concerned, over his predecessor, Martin Feldstein.

Mr Sprinkel is unlikely to be as much of an embarrassment as Mr Feldstein, who constantly trumpeted on about the importance of the deficit and the need to raise taxes. At one point last year, Mr Regan was so incensed at Mr Feldstein and the CEA's annual report to the President that he told a congressional committee to throw it away. The CEA had said that the Administration could not grow its way out of the deficit.

After Mr Feldstein's

return to Harvard University last summer, Mr Sprinkel became senior economic spokesman. Along with other Administration officials, he is a vocal critic of the Federal Reserve's anti-inflationary, tight monetary policies. He has made it clear that a second Reagan Administration would maintain pressure on the Fed to achieve moderate and stable growth in the money supply. He also believes that tax increases would constitute a serious anti-inflationary policy.

But on international economic policy he has had much to say with others in the Administration because of his doctrinaire views in this field. At the end of the year, Mr Sprinkel almost prevented Mr Regan from convincing his European colleagues that he could keep an open mind on the subject of intervention to stabilise currency markets.

Purchasing power of wages rises by 3½ pc

Earnings keep ahead of price increases

By Christopher Huhne,
Economics Editor

Earnings kept well ahead of prices in the year to November so that most employees had a 3½ per cent increase in the purchasing power of their pay after allowing for tax cuts and inflation, government figures showed yesterday.

And separate Department of Employment figures suggested that the number of jobs in the economy grew by 46,000 in the three months to September last year, bringing the total number of net new jobs over the year to 226,000.

The increase in employment went side by side with a rise in unemployment of 113,000, partly because of an increase in the working age population (estimated at 200,000 in 1984) and partly because most new jobs seem to have been taken by unemployed people who were not previously included

in the government's count, because they were not entitled to benefits.

The underlying increase in earnings in the year to November is put at 7½ per cent, slightly higher than the actual increase of 6.6 per cent because of the coal and car industry disputes and delayed settlements for local authority white collar workers.

There is thus little sign of pay pressures abating despite the continued rise in both unemployment and real incomes for those in work, though officials said that the increase in overtime working could account for a ½ per cent rise in earnings.

With other elements of drift such as bonus payments, the earnings figures would be consistent with an increase in underlying basic settlements of around 5½-6 per cent. Less

than 10 per cent of the workforce settles between August and December, with a quarter now due between January and March, officials said.

The 7½ per cent rise in underlying earnings, which most employees are not affected by disputes are probably getting, compares with a 4.9 per cent rise in retail prices in the year to November and with a 3.7 per cent rise in the tax and price index which also takes account of budget tax cuts in March.

In manufacturing industry the rise in earnings is put at 8.5 per cent, a 5 per cent increase in overtime hours worked over the year more than offset a small rise in short-time working compared with November, 1983. The average monthly increase in manufacturing employment in the three months to November was 6,000, compared with a fall of 5,000 in the three months to August.

Call on state to gear up QE2

By Andrew Cornish

TRAFALGAR House is seeking government grant and loan aid to help meet the estimated £30 million plus costs of re-engineering the group's troublesome flagship QE2.

Sir Nigel Brookes said yesterday that he is "keen" to re-engineer the QE2 which has been dogged by engine failure in recent years. Trafalgar has asked re-engineering the QE2 with new diesel/electric engines several times in the past two years, but has so far failed to come up with a deal which makes "economic sense".

Three new engines would prolong the life of the QE2 for 15 years beyond the ten year anticipated lifespan of the vessel at present. They would also help cut the QE2's huge fuel bill, which eats into profits.

Sir Nigel is attempting to persuade the Government that it should provide either grant aid, or cheap finance, because of the strategic importance of the vessel. Trafalgar has stressed that vital role played by the QE2 in the Falklands conflict, and the problems which would be caused if the QE2 was not available in similar circumstances in the future.

Comard, Trafalgar's cruise subsidiary, caused a storm of controversy when it asked manufacturers in Germany and Holland to negotiate for the engine contract.

But Sir Nigel repeated his "dismissal" about the performance of British yards when asked about the late delivery of the replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor which was delivered six months late by the British Swan Hunter yard.

We were not surprised that was late," he said. "That is as candid as I can be."

Trafalgar was persuaded to build the ship in Britain by the Government and British Shipbuilders who subsidised the cost of the vessel to bring it in line with the prices offered by Japanese yards. Negotiations will now begin with British Shipbuilders to arrange compensation for the late delivery.

Shares rally as settled pound calms market

By our Economics staff

The London stock market staged a convincing and broad recovery yesterday which added 19.5 points to the FT 30 share index to leave it at 881.3, barely more than a point short of last Thursday's level before the first of the recent rises in bank interest rates.

The stability of sterling, which closed 0.1 cents down at \$1.195 leaving the trade weighted index unchanged on the day at 71.3, encouraged the day's money markets and hopes that the March budget could be the occasion for interest rate declines.

The money markets reflected the calmness of the pound, with the key three month interbank rate closing at 10.9, a figure which was said to be consistent with the present 13 per cent bank base rate.

Foreign exchange dealers, however, said that the calmness of the pound reflected uncertainty about the outcome of the meeting of the group of five big countries' finance ministers in Washington, and some analysts warned that it was too early to be confident that the

pound's fall had been checked.

Today's public sector borrowing requirement figures are keenly awaited for any signs of a further overshooting of the Government's £8.5 billion target for the financial year.

The Confederation of British Industry, at its monthly council meeting yesterday, reiterated its support for the Government's action on Monday in introducing the 12 per cent Minimum Lending Rate, arguing that the move was preferable to jeopardising inflation targets by allowing the value of sterling to fall further.

Such is the sensitivity of interest rates that National Savings has alerted holders of a certificate which matures next month to the advantages of starting a new National Savings plan, which first went on sale on February 4 five years ago, is the all time best seller for National Savings. If most of the certificates bought in February 1980 are cashed in, National Savings could lose £500 million just as the Department is coming close to achieving the financial year's £3 billion target.

Nedo attacks UK hi-tech failings

By Peter Large

Technology Correspondent

Osided management and unions in traditional industries are again blamed today for Britain's failure to modernise production at the rate of our competitors.

The latest attack — from a leading party of the National Economic Development Council — makes the point that some of the world's leading excellence in co-ordinated automation can be found in Britain, and those consultancy and computer software services are used frequently by American manufacturers to make them more competitive than British industry.

The report is the result of a tour of the "iron triangle" between New York, Toronto, and Philadelphia, made by one manager and two shop stewards from the heavy electrical machinery business, plus two Nedo officials. They do not

use the label "osided" but it summarises their judgments.

They say that American firms are giving "total commitment" to the "revolutionary changes" of computer integrated manufacturing. (That means not just automating production but building a complete computer information network extending from design of products, through manufacturing, to management reporting and future planning.)

Their report then complains that British management has played "a less formative role" in the training that is crucial for modernisation. Britain also lacks a "positive relationship" between unions and management in planning for change.

Methods of increasing overseas membership should be investigated, it adds, including ways of holding deposits in the US and allowing foreign securities and currencies as part of a member's deposit.

Names 'should pay more'

By Mary Brasier

Members of Lloyd's should be asked to "pay up" more money as a condition of joining the insurance market, according to a report presented to the ruling council this week. A 45 per cent increase in the funds that names are obliged to deposit with Lloyd's would mean that names underwriting is the key recommendation of the Bird working party report into Lloyd's membership requirements.

The report, which at this stage is intended as a discussion document, suggests that deposits be raised to 25 per cent of a names gross overall premium limit. Current practice is to demand that names lodge with Lloyd's liquid or near liquid assets related to the premium limit after deducting retained amounts.

The effect of the proposal would be to increase the deposit required of a member writing £200,000 of business from £50,000 to £75,000. If it is adopted, the £18,000 that Lloyd's names would collectively have to find over £240 million.

More than 6,500 members are already in breach of current deposit requirements and the report says the council should require names to bring them into line. All members would have to comply with the new rules by 1990 and new members from 1987.

Lloyd's remains committed to the principle of unlimited liability and the means of requiring members to show wealth of at least £100,000 would be unchanged. For wealthier names, the maximum premium limit, raised to £600,000 this month, would be abolished.

The working party has reported at a time when the market's ruling authorities believe capacity should be increased, both in real terms and to offset the fall of sterling against the dollar. The report also suggests that Lloyd's, which does 70 per cent of its business in dollars, should move to a dollar-based institution.

Methods of increasing overseas membership should be investigated, it adds, including ways of holding deposits in the US and allowing foreign securities and currencies as part of a member's deposit.

Abbey Life set for flotation

By Mary Brasier

Abbey Life, one of the UK's top ten life assurance companies is likely to be floated on the London Stock Exchange later this year. Abbey's advisers, the giant ITC Corporation of the US, said yesterday that they want to sell a minority stake in the company to UK investors.

ITC has asked merchant bank S. G. Warburg and accountants Mallet & Whimsey to prepare a report on the feasibility of a sale in the next few weeks. According to Abbey chairman Michael Hepher a public offer for sale, if agreed could be set in motion immediately.

ITC will retain control through a majority shareholding but sees a flotation as the best way both to raise cash and establish a value for the remainder of its

investment. "It is critical to ITC's strategy to have a widely based share ownership, so that they have a constant measure of how much the company is worth. The route of a company buy-out is not attractive," said Mr Hepher.

The go-ahead for floating Abbey Life will depend on external factors such as a sterling writing conditions and a decision on how much of the group is offered to the public is likely to be deferred until the last minute.

Abbey Life was the brainchild of Mark Weinberg who introduced unit-linked life assurance to Britain with Abbey in 1962. After Abbey Life was taken over by ITC, Mr Weinberg left to found rival Hambro Life in 1976 backed by the merchant bankers at Hambro. Hambro Life grew rapidly to overtake Abbey Life as Britain's biggest unit-linked life assurance company.

It is difficult to see what market valuation should be put on Abbey Life. Hambro Life was recently sold to the tobacco group BAT for \$664 million. A comparison of the size of the two businesses would suggest a valuation for Abbey Life of around £500 million, but it is probable that Hambro Life would carry a premium over Abbey Life because of the role of Mr Weinberg himself, and because of its faster growth record. That would suggest a valuation more in the £300-£400 million range.

Maxwell spells out reasons for Fleet sale

By Andrew Cornish and
Maggie Brown

Mr Robert Maxwell decided to sell his 15 per cent share stake in Fleet Holdings, the Express Newspapers group, after receiving a letter from the mysterious Pergamon Holding Foundation, in Liechtenstein, which claimed ownership of the Maxwell business empire, it was claimed yesterday.

Details of a conversation between the two newspaper proprietors in which Mr Maxwell explained his decision to sell the Fleet share stake to United Newspapers for £30 million, were revealed yesterday by Lord Matthews, Fleet's chairman.

Lord Matthews claimed that Mr Maxwell, the publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, cited the letter as one of the reasons for selling the shares, during a telephone conversation with him on Tuesday. "We did send a letter which we said to all our shareholders which he (Mr Maxwell) mentioned as one of the reasons he sold the shares,"

Lord Matthews said. "We ask who are the beneficial owners of the shares," he said, "and fighting off an unwelcome takeover bid from Mr Maxwell's BPCC, raised questions about the mysterious Pergamon Holding Foundation, in Liechtenstein, which claimed ownership of the \$700 million Maxwell empire, including Mirror Group."

Last night Mr Maxwell was not available to comment on his conversation with Lord Matthews.

Lord Matthews said that he was "slightly disappointed" that Mr Maxwell had not spoken to him about selling the shares until the deal had been concluded with United Newspapers.

As speculation grew in the City that United Newspapers had bought the Fleet stake as a prelude to making a full takeover bid Lord Matthews said that he doubted whether United had the resources to make a bid at the present time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chamber's warning

RISE in earnings from British investments in overseas countries are unlikely to offset the decline in home-based manufacturing industry, the London Chamber of Commerce has warned. Britain's deficit on manufactured goods grew to a loss of £5.9 billion in the first 11 months of 1984, a rise of £1 billion on the 1983 deficit, the first since the Industrial Revolution.

In evidence to the Lords committee on overseas trade, the Chamber says Britain is facing greater problems paying her way in the world because of the decline in net exports of manufacturing.

DUNLOP's new chairman, Sir Michael Edwards, and two co-directors were criticised yesterday for taking a record-breaking share option deal as their price for attempting to rescue the trucking company. Mr Anthony Beaumont Dark MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, described the directors' deal, which was revealed with Dunlop's financial reconstruction, as "bad capitalism". It will look to most people as though it is heads they win, tails everybody else loses.

SWISS banks holding just under 3 per cent of Rover's £1 billion fund for a last ditch attempt to persuade Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary to contribute to the fund which is to be launched after a special meeting in Paris on January 31.

A spokesman for the FO said after the meeting that no decision had yet been reached on the nature of the UK contribution. However, it is thought to be unlikely that Britain would become a direct participant because of the Government's desire to reduce borrowing.

The Government may juggle with its existing Budget channels some money in the form of bilateral aid (tied to buying UK goods) but this will fall considerably short of the £40 million to £50 million a year of untied aid the World Bank is looking for. France, Italy, Holland, the Nordic countries and a number of Middle East countries have already agreed to contribute.

Clausen pleads to UK

By Victor Keegan

Britain is unlikely to make a direct contribution to the World Bank's £1 billion fund to help sub-Saharan Africa despite pledges of \$600 million by other countries.

Mr Tom Clausen, president of the Washington-based World Bank, flew into London yesterday for a last ditch attempt to persuade Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary to contribute to the fund which is to be launched after a special meeting in Paris on January 31.

A spokesman for the FO said after the meeting that no decision had yet been reached

Premier calls for £16m

By James Erlichman

Premier Consolidated, the independent UK oil company, asked shareholders for £16.3 million yesterday to help fund its portion of the Wyth Farm oil discovery in Dorset.

The cash call comes only days after the Department of Environment warned that it was tightening its rules on how oil companies could exploit discoveries on land in the UK. Wyth Farm, the largest onshore oil field in Britain, is located in an environmentally sensitive area and pressure groups are resisting attempts

by the operator, BP, to expand greatly the reservoir and scope of drilling.

But Premier Consolidated which belongs to the consortium that bought out British Gas's half share in Wyth Farm last year said yesterday that further development is planned to start as soon as requisite consents are obtained.

Premier is asking shareholders to raise the £16.3 million through a three-for-one rights issue offered at 38p a share. This is a 6p discount on Premier's closing price last night of 44p a share.

Tace plc
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- * Profit before tax increased to £2,803,000 (1983 - £1,217,000).
- * Final dividend 3.0p per share (1983 - 2.0p) giving a total for the year of 4.5p per share (1983 - 3.0p).
- * New products being well received in home and export markets.
- * Growth continuing strongly in current year.

Annual Report from The Secretary, Tace plc,
Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD



Investors are slow to plug into cable



By Dennis Barker

JON DAVEY (left), whose appointment as the first director general of the newly-formed Cable Authority was announced yesterday, predicted that this year would be a much better one for the cable industry than 1984.

At present only one of the 11 companies granted pilot cable television franchises by the government, before the setting up of the authority, is in operation. Some of the others have found it difficult to attract finance and one at Windsor — has put its plans in cold storage for six months.

But Mr Davey, the former Home Office official who has dealt with cable matters since the government sanctioned the system, said this was "an expression of the natural caution about any

new field of investment in the City."

He added: "The cable industry is still enthusiastic. The problem lies in persuading people in the City, who are not committed in the same way to cable, that this is a good investment. We are not this country as adventurous in providing venture capital as in some other countries, but I think that can be turned round."

Mr Davey, who will be the executive head of the new regulatory body for cable, under the chairman, Mr Richard Burton, said it would not take very much to persuade the City to change its perception of cable. "I think that the mere fact that we now have an authority, and the authority is engineering some new activity in the cable world, is going to have an effect on confidence and interest in the industry," he said.

Mr Davey said the new authority — whose membership will not be completed for a matter of weeks — would have to take position about ways in which the cable industry could be helped and if necessary put these to the Government.

Not all of the 40 organisations approached by the authority to see if they were interested in bidding for the next round of five new franchises had yet submitted applications, but the deadline was the end of January and he had expected that applications would come in at the end of the month. Some companies, apart from those approached, had asked the authority for details.

The Department of Trade, which regulates the technological standards of cable as the authority regulates programming, has favoured the most sophisticated technology as a "showcase" but many

of the existing franchise holders now want to have cheaper systems.

Mr Davey said the authority would not try to persuade the DTI to drop its technological standards, but he predicted that in the future, unlike for the pilot round of 11 franchises, the "particular technology favoured by applicants will be only one of the factors taken into account, instead of the main one."

It was already clear, said Mr Davey, that new companies coming into the business, such as Shaw Cable and National Tele-Cable management, would want an interest in several companies locally.

It is hoped that the authority will be complete and in its own offices by the time the new round of franchises are considered in April.

United's express front

Maggie Brown and Hamish McRae on the Fleet Street latest

INVESTING in Britain's national newspaper industry, or more specifically, in Fleet Street, is clearly back in fashion. Forget the plain man's view that it is a nightmarish jungle of low returns, gold-plated production agreements, a business suited only to egomaniacs.

Suddenly, it's becoming a sensible proposition for sensible businessmen seeking a challenge and under-exploited asset. The change in perception is most neatly illustrated by United Newspapers' decision on Tuesday to buy up Mr Robert Maxwell's 15.7 per cent stake in Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily and Sunday Express, as well as a lucrative shareholding in the Express group.

There seems little doubt that in United's chairman, Mr David Stevens, there is yet another would-be press baron waiting in the wings for his cue. He probably relishes the challenge of wringing even better returns out of the Express group, as Mr Maxwell is about to try at nearby Mirror Group, aided by the £6 million Fleet shareholding.

United, of course, says that it is in the Express group, an opportunistic purchase as "long-term trade investment," but the bankers and brokers used to dealing with this highly aggressive company cannot help but be galled by its in-house

titles such as Punch and the Countryman frankly disbelieve it.

They prefer the simpler explanation based on experience. When one expansionary firm on the move holds a swiftly assembled major stake in another complementary one, then a takeover bid can only be the most likely option, as surely as night follows day. With the Maxwell stake, plus other purchases, United now has a 19 per cent total holding in Fleet, the perfect springboard for action.

This is confidently expected before the year is out, with bidding starting between £2.50 to £3 per Fleet share, valuing the group at perhaps £252 million.

So, if United can find the backers for its ever larger ambitions, and if it is prepared to act decisively—its management has successfully used takeovers to help increase profits almost tenfold over the past five years—then a bid may be on the way.

But United has a definite problem, though not insuperable. Its two recent large deals—an £82 million takeover in December of the publishing Exchange and Mart group, and now the £30 million Fleet share stake, have been paid for in shares. It has doubled its share capital in about three months and "people are getting fed up with so much United

paper around," say the unfriendlier brokers.

But it does not rule out a more complicated approach. United has bought assets for shares, and that means it has low borrowings which could now be expanded to fund a portion of the Fleet takeover.

It is also triumphantly reaping a strong profits flow through lashing out \$80 million on a bold buying spree of American media companies largely in 1983. It would be quite possible to float off the Express side of Fleet, retaining the magazines which United clearly most wants.

In any case, a form of reverse takeover bid for Fleet, mounted by marginally smaller United might just be acceptable in a rising stockmarket convinced of the commercial merits of its case.

But Fleet Holdings under chairman Lord Matthews and grumpy accountant turned managing director Mr Ian Irvine has had time to prepare for just such a strike. Contrary to the propaganda, Lord Matthews, aged 58, is not eager to bow out yet. Under Fleet company rules he could go on until he is 70. Mr Irvine relishes the role, and will fight to the finish. It will be the institutional investors who will decide.

Fleet's strength lies in the highly effective way the

assets have been garnered. Troublesome national newspapers more than doubled their profits to £8.7 million last year, and are set to coast to £7 million in this. Add in Reuters share dividends of around £5 million, and Fleet is set fair for profits of about £27 million this year, compared with £22 million last year. United is also on target for £27 million.

Much of the credit for Fleet's progress must go to Lord Matthews. After a long and successful relationship with Sir Nigel Brookes at Trafalgar House, in which he built up the group's trading side, he cut loose what was then a Trafalgar House subsidiary and turned it into a financial success story.

At the time most of the market gave Fleet Holdings little chance of such success, a judgment which has enabled Lord Matthews to build himself a personal fortune.

He bought into Fleet, when the market price at around 20-25 pence was little more than one tenth of its present level, making himself more money in his years at Fleet than he ever made at Trafalgar House.

To a limited extent this personal shareholding (though only amounting to some 24 per cent of the total equity) does give him a say in the eventual ownership of the group.

If Fleet has been a man-



Lord Matthews... much of the credit

gerial success in the sense that it has managed the businesses it already has well, it could be vulnerable in two respects.

First, it has failed to strike out decisively in new directions... in clear contrast to United.

Secondly it is sitting on an £80 million stake in Reuters, of which only one quar-

ter is locked up for the foreseeable future in privileged voting shares. Other portions could be sold off from January 1986, after agreement with merchant bankers to Reuters, S. G. Warburg. So a successful bidder could start raising cash almost immediately if that bidder were to be United Newspapers, it would certainly need to...

The economic factors behind the pound's slump are being dismissed in so many official, industrial and City circles that there seems little hope of the lessons being learnt. It might seem downright objectionable in a country that has continued to raise its oil output, in some degree at their expense while markets were weak.

The lesson is: live within your means



INVESTMENT

Robin Stoddart

IF THE latest desperate hike in sterling interest rates is passed off as a temporary divergence forced on a virtuous government by inquisitive foreign oil and currency traders, the more prodigal federal spending and borrowing in the United States, the corrective treatment is liable to become still more frequent. Stop-go policies always stem from Britain's attempts to live beyond her international means.

The economic factors behind the pound's slump are being dismissed in so many official, industrial and City circles that there seems little hope of the lessons being learnt. It might seem downright objectionable in a country that has continued to raise its oil output, in some degree at their expense while markets were weak.

It might appear almost poetic justice that as the pit strike steadily crumbles, severe winter weather should sharply raise consumption of indigenous fuel of all kinds. Although the effect on oil prices has been slight so far, and an American freeze-out, too, will probably be needed to boost demand most for support of official prices, most of the pressures and restraints on prices that have kept inflation low are now beginning to evaporate.

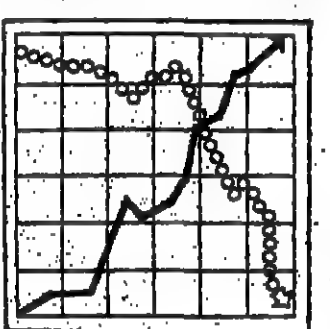
A little too late for sterling, the downturn in dollar interest rates was resumed this week, taking the cost of bank borrowing around two percentage points below that on pounds. The impact on US treasury bonds was fairly small and the longest-dated issues still yield a point more than comparable London stocks.

Although no great reliance is being placed on one month's statistics, the evidence is that there was no Christmas spending spree in the US to match the economic upswing during the year. That could mean that the surge in imports is petering out, and indeed the latest provisional figures for US industrial production in general and motor output in particular are very encouraging.

The contrast with Britain's feeble improvement in this area, insofar as it is visible at all, could hardly be more pronounced, as the divergent unemployment statistics have been saying all along.

Excluding the loss on exchange rates to overseas buyers, British share prices are still performing better than most. The many companies with large US subsidiaries have about kept pace with the rise in the dollar, often recovering ahead of the broader indices. That this cannot continue if interest rates have to be kept far above the international average for another year is axiomatic.

Sterling's cheap and that's good for industry



ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

AFTER TWO weeks which have seen the pound down by 24 per cent and interest rates up by 24 per cent, the Government's reputation for steady resolve in its handling of the economy in temporary matters, it is surprising just how many questions these are still left unanswered.

For a start, it is not yet clear whether the long downward trend in the pound which began at the beginning of 1981 has been decisively checked by the dramatic hike in interest rates on Friday and Monday. The momentum of that decline is considerable. The pound against all our trading partners' currencies is down by 30 per cent on the monthly peak in January 1981. Even against the other EEC currencies, in the European Monetary System, and thus stripping out the effect of the rising dollar—the pound has fallen by nearly 16 per cent since February 1981.

The uncertainty is compounded because it is equally unclear exactly what the Government really wants, even if it knows itself, or what it is prepared to do to get it. Thus the question of where interest rates go next is as muddy as the Thames at low tide.

What we do know is that the Treasury's panic point on sterling was Monday's rate in the Far East, before the

London markets opened, which touched a low of \$1.1020, leaving the trade-weighted index at 70.6 at the London opening. But the observation does not tell us what the panic point is now, let alone what it will be in a week or more's time.

After all, Treasury officials have repeated until they are blue in the face that there is no target for the exchange rate; the policy is that it is merely taken into account. And circumstances clearly change the authorities' view, as was amply demonstrated by the rapid turnaround from the apparent intention shown until Thursday of last week.

So what happened between Wednesday and Friday, when rates rose by one point? Thursday's trading was reported to be "near panic conditions" with the pound falling to an afternoon low of \$1.0880 against the strong dollar but also dropping during the day from Deutschmark 3.60 to 3.5875, a loss of nearly one per cent. The drop of nearly one per cent against all currencies since then has been a rate rise. The cock-up in briefing the Sunday press and the renewed dive in the Far East caused the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to reach for the panic button: Minimum Lending Rate was re-introduced to show in no uncertain terms who really determines short term interest rates.

Both the interest rate rise and the Chancellor's statements to the House and the press since then have been designed to break the foreign exchange market's psychology. In itself, a 24 per cent rise in interest rates cannot stop the slide, as a calm Wall Street dealer explains: "The panic-stricken interviewer on BBC on Monday night."

The dealer was, of course, right. If you are a speculator who believes that the pound will, say, lose 10 per cent of its value over the next three months you are not going to be wildly impressed by the offer of an extra 24 per cent over a year, or not quite

three quarters of a per cent over the period.

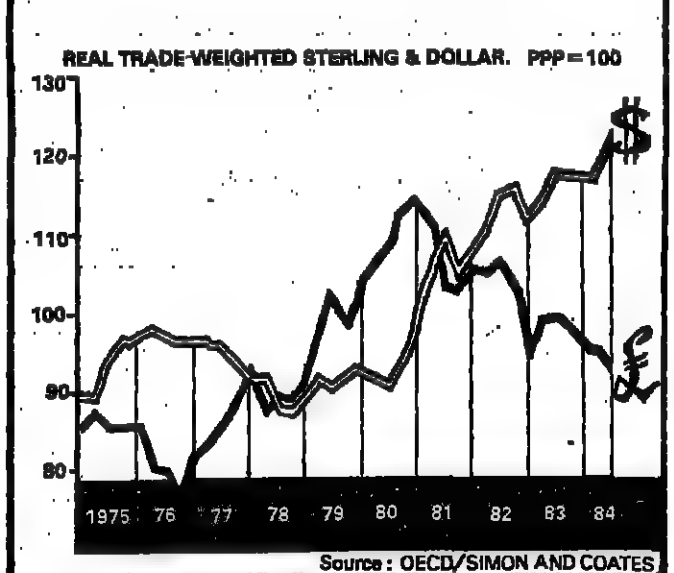
But if the markets believe that the Chancellor will go further—either by raising interest rates again or by organising the sort of support package of official buying which is the only thing to have stopped really severe runs on currencies in the past, then the irony is that he will not need them. Psychology is all.

The very indecisiveness of the last fortnight makes the Chancellor's task all the

dealers' short term explanations of currency movements rarely hang together. For example, you will have heard numerous dealers and journalists attributing sterling's recent weakness in part to the weak oil price, but oil prices only look weak when set in rising dollars. For anyone else, the oil price has been rising in real terms and the pound's petro-currency advantage against the European ought to have strengthened.

The pound went on going

Is the pound now undervalued?



more difficult. So does the history of the last four years, which has been marked with temporary interest rate rises which have only braked but not stopped the sterling slide. Bank base rates were hiked by 24 per cent between June 27 and July 11 last year when the rate against the dollar was \$1.5875.

Literally anything could now happen, because the foreign exchange markets are creatures of fashion. Even

up in 1979 and 1980 despite all the economic evidence that it was being seriously overvalued; it could equally well go on falling despite some new economic evidence which suggests that sterling is probably now undervalued. In the long run, many economists believe that currencies will tend towards the exchange rates which equate the prices of the same products in different countries, or purchasing power parity. The reason is simply

that somebody somewhere will start buying in the cheap country and selling in the dear one if the gap yawns consistently wide.

Using these purchasing power parities as a base of 100, Jeremy Hale of brokers Simon and Coates has updated his graphs of the moves in the real trade-weighted exchange rates of both sterling and the dollar, shown here.

They suggest that the dollar is getting increasingly overvalued—as most recognise—but also that the overvaluation of sterling between 1979 and 1982 has now ended.

There are several important caveats about these figures. First actual market rates can and do diverge widely for years at a time if only because capital flows, on one estimate, run at between \$20 and \$30,000 billion a year across the exchanges against only \$2,000 billion of real trade in goods and services. As yet, there are no purchasing power parity figures for the prices of assets in different countries which probably determine the capital flows.

Even as an indication to policy-makers of what may seem like a sensible exchange rate so as not to hit or coddle the tradeable sector, purchasing power parity (PPP) may be a flawed guide. It compares the prices of goods and services across the whole economy including most areas such as, say, residential building or services—which are not traded, yet the exchange rate reflects only the trading sector. A country with rela-

tively high unemployment may need a lower than PPP exchange rate for a period in order to expand its domestic demand and match growing imports with exports.

The next and final question which it seems to me what the effects on the economy as a whole are likely to be.

There is only one imperfect way of finding out, and that is to ask a computer model of the economy. As it happens, the National Institute has recently done simulations on its model which almost parallel the developments in the economy since the beginning of November, or roughly the time when the Treasury finalised its Autumn Statement forecast. One of them shows the effect of a 5 per cent devaluation against all other currencies: the actual devaluation since November 1 is about 5.5 per cent. The other shows the effects of a one per cent rise in interest rates which can be multiplied to produce the results of a 24 per cent rise.

In the National Institute's model, the 5 per cent devaluation will raise national income by 0.4 per cent after two years but the interest rate rise lowers it again by 0.25 per cent: a net gain. The devaluation raises the inflation rate by 0.8 per cent but the interest rate cuts it by 0.4 per cent: a net loss. The devaluation reduces unemployment by 35,000 but the interest rate rise increases it by 24,000: a net gain.

A similar pattern emerges in the first and third years of the model run, always assuming that the changes are sustained. But these aggregate effects disguise very different impacts on different sectors: Marx and Spencer, for example, will hit by higher interest rates but will receive little benefit from the devaluation other than generally higher growth: a big exporter like ICI gets much more gain. Overall, however, it looks as if recent changes are positive for the economy.

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LEICESTER LOCK OUT PART-TIMERS • NORWICH END GRIMSBY HOPES • LIVERPOOL DAZZLED BY PLATINI

David Lacey — Burton Albion 0, Leicester City 1

Brave Burton refuse to go quietly

SOCCER

LEICESTER CITY'S right to appear in the fourth round of the FA Cup was established beyond dispute on a bitterly cold afternoon at Coventry yesterday.

They defeated Burton Albion 1-0 in the third round tie which the FA had ordered to be replayed behind closed doors after the Northern Premier League club protested following the injury to their goalkeeper and captain, Paul Evans, knocked unconscious by a piece of wood thrown from the terraces during the 0-1 defeat at Derby.

In the first English domestic match played behind closed doors as a disciplinary measure, Burton's performance fully justified the FA's decision. After falling behind in the fourth minute they attacked their First Division opponents with increasing confidence and more than once came close to forcing a replay at Filbert Street.

Admittedly, Leicester hit a post twice in the second half but they were never able, in conditions more akin to a football pitch than at the Baseball Ground, to impose their superior status on the game for any length of time.

Neil Warnock, the club's manager, said afterwards that he felt the match had demonstrated the club's close relationship with the crowd. "Today, with no outside interference, we just got on with the job," he declared. "We showed our mettle, played with a lot of skill and determination and caused them problems."

Warnock went on: "At Derby it was not only our goalkeeper who felt intimidated by the missiles being thrown on to the pitch. Two of the three players had their minds half on the game and half on the crowd. In the first game we weren't allowed to perform 11 against 11. The FA were



SILENT RUNNING... Leicester and Burton play it again at empty Highfield Road yesterday

brave enough to allow us another chance."

Paradoxically, as a spectacle, yesterday's match would have gained much had it been played before an audience of rather more than FA and club officials, press, radio, television, ball boys, groundstaff, police and two members of the public who managed to find a way in.

Given the intense cold and the odd layer of snow in the ground the scene offered a foretaste of what it might be like if the FA ever have to take a tie to Anchorage. Or as one wit remarked five minutes before the start: "I'm confused. I keep expecting Notts County to run out."

The only consistent sound accompaniment was provided by the players barking at one another like seals on an ice floe. Warnock conceded the empty stadium might

have given Burton an advantage in this respect since they were more accustomed to hearing each other clearly.

"We have to talk each other on," he said. "Because when you're part-timers, you're sometimes a little bit slower upstairs."

Not that this was apparent once Burton realised the pitch, with its undersoil heating, took a good stud and allowed them to play a normal game. In fact Burton were still working this out when Ramsey swayed through their defence and beat Evans with a low shot.

For a long time afterwards few shots of consequence were allowed to reach the Burton goalkeeper, so well did Dolby, Simms and Vaughan cover the danger of Linaker, Alan Smith and Lynex. Not only that, Harrison and Newton steadily established parity with Leices-

ter in midfield and this brought the Burton strikers, particularly Mell, into the match.

Mell, who has played League football with Halifax and Doncaster but now runs a gentlemen's boutique, showed the best touches of any player and twice in the first half the ease with which he took the ball past Williams might have brought the scores level. On the first occasion Andrews pushed his shot wide, the second time Mell's shot was wild and high.

When Leicester again sustained their attacks they were thwarted by Evans as he saved a shot from O'Neill and a header from Alan Smith, and the right-hand post which was struck by Linaker and Lynex.

In the last minute, a well-hit 25-yard shot from Newton took a deflection and

came within a couple of feet of bringing Burton a replay. "It might sound unprofessional," said Evans later. "But I'm glad Leicester won because none of this was their fault."

Gordon Milne, the Leicester manager, went away grumbling that it had been wrong to play behind closed doors, that it was unfair to both teams because of the lack of atmosphere and that he hoped the FA would never order such a thing again.

Milne, one felt, missed the point of the exercise, but it is to be hoped that yesterday's match remains unique in FA Cup history. In case anyone has forgotten, Leicester are at home to Carlsberg in the fourth round.

Burton Albion: Evans, McManis, Blair, Shaw, Kaba, Prosser. Leicester City: Andrews, Foster, Wilson, R. Smith, Ramsey, Bates, Harrison, E. Hill (Kettering).

Patrick Barclay

Juventus 2

Liverpool 0

Boniek breaks the ice

THE PLATINI-Boniek combination were too much for Liverpool last night in Turin, where the Polish striker's lethal finishing gave Juventus the European Supercup.

Boniek scored a smartly-taken goal in each half, the second coming from a cross by Briacchi 11 minutes from the end of the match illuminated by Platini's skill. Rossi, in whom the Italian audience took great pre-match interest, was hardly seen as Juventus denied Liverpool's prestige in their extravaganza on ice.

During a comparatively mild day, more than a foot of snow had been cleared from the covered pitch and carried away by lorries. Juventus's army of helpers, cleared the Stadio Comunale's spacious terraces.

Juventus were on £4,500 a man, about four times that of the Liverpool players, to win a match played on a flinty but even surface. Liverpool's defenders were immediately in trouble, though the conditions did not favour Rossi as the ball twice bobbed away from him in promising situations.

The great Platini, who seemed unaffected, announced his presence with a spinning drive from 25 yards into the goal. Boniek, clutching splendidly.

The Italian champions were playing delightfully at times and soon after Kennedy had denied Rossi's attempt to finish off a Platini-Boniek manoeuvre Hansen was reduced to pulling back Rossi by the shirt, which earned the Liverpool defender a caution.

Though Juventus's defenders had equal difficulty turning, they were less often tested as Liverpool's midfield struggled to provide a service for Rossi and Walsh.

PLATINI, whom Liverpool allowed to drop back for the ball, was the only player to run the match largely as he pleased as Lawrenson worked tirelessly to plug gaps opened by Rossi's resourceful running.

The Frenchman, looking glorious on the ball over the defence, sent Boniek clear as Lawrenson slipped, but although the Pole lobbed the advancing goalkeeper, Neal dashed back to kick the ball out.

The pressure finally told, however, as five minutes before half-time Platini provided a long through pass for Briacchi, who narrowly beat the offside trap and touched it on to Boniek, who held off Kennedy, took his time and from an angle whipped his low shot across the goal.

Strangely that came only a few minutes after MacDonald had given Liverpool a glimmer of hope, taking Walsh's back-heeled return to drive in a shot that was cleared with difficulty. And even after Boniek's goal Liverpool showed they were not wholly out of contention when, amid more defensive discomfiture, Walsh shot disappointingly from an excellent position.

Liverpool's task became even more difficult when Lawrence, presumably suffering from a recurrence of hamstring trouble, was replaced for the second half by Gillespie.

In their effort to push for an equaliser, Grimsby nearly conceded another goal five minutes into the second half when Downs released Donawa down the inside left position. The winger, then inside the defence, advanced on Elch to lose his balance and his shot went well wide.

Norwich's next attempt came when Channon took a free kick just outside the penalty area and instead of putting over a cross sent a low pass down the left which Deehan ran on to but his shot hit the side netting.

Grimsby Town: Balazs, Scouras, Agnew, Fally, Gremme, Moore, Ford, Wilkinson, Law, Norwich City: Woods, Haylock, Downs, Bruce, Middleton, Van Wyk, Barham, Channon, Deehan, Harford, Oates. Referee: J. Worrall (Warrington).

John Rodda

Feeney hangs up his gloves

George Feeney, Britain's lightweight champion, has retired because of a detached retina. Feeney, 27 and married with four daughters, was told by doctors at Westminster Hospital this week that he should not fight again. He plans to continue in the sport as a trainer in his native Hartlepool.



GEORGE FEENEY: Eye injury ends champion's career

Feeney won the British title in 1982 and has twice defended the championship to win a Lonsdale Belt outright. With his brother, John, who is the current bantamweight champion, he helped restore some of the lustre to boxing in the North-east even though they rarely fought in the area.

His best year was probably 1983, when he faced the world champion, Ray Mancini, in a non-title fight and Howard Davis, who is now a leading challenger for the WBA lightweight title. He lost both fights but gave the top-class opposition full measure of his fighting skills.

Denny Mancini, who managed Feeney, believes that part of the damage which caused his fighter's retirement was caused by the gloves he was required to use in his unsuccessful attempt to take the European title from Gene Weiler in Germany at Frankfurt last October.

Mancini claims that the gloves were too small. He will draw the attention of the British Board to what he believes is a danger and recommend the type of glove used recently by Roy Gums in a fight in Korea. There the thumbs were sewn to the body of the glove, thus reducing the possibility of stabbing the thumb, accidentally or deliberately, in an opponent's eye.

Colin Jones, who fights Don Curry of Texas for the World welterweight title in Birmingham on Saturday, returned to the city last night after taking a surprising 24-hour break back home to Wales. Jones, who is married, decided to brave the frozen MS to Swansea to see his wife and children.

This certainly breaks with the traditional view that a fighter should be cocooned away from the normal world. Jones's manager, Eddie Thomas, said yesterday:

"It is a good time to have a break from training. We're in Birmingham for 10 days, working hard, and it is nice to get home for a few hours." Jones's manager, Eddie Thomas, said yesterday.

Curry, meanwhile, trained at his hotel without comment, but his manager Dave Gorman said: "I certainly am not insisting on an 8.0 am weigh-in."

Clive Everton

Crucible of gold

SNOOKER

A field of 103 players will compete for a record first prize of £80,000 in this year's Embassy World Professional Championship, the qualifying rounds of which will take place at Preston from March 27-April and the tournament proper at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, from April 12-23.

When the draw was made yesterday at the Savoy Hotel in London the sponsors announced that the championship, with a total prize fund of £200,000, will remain at the Crucible for the next six years.

Steve Davis, who will be at-

tempting to win the world title for the fourth time in five years, is likely to meet Neal Foulds, who beat Alex Higgins at the same stage last year, in the 21-year-old Londoner's bid to win his qualifying section.

EMBA'S WORLD PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - First round draw (Sheffield 27-28 April): (1) S. Davis (England) v (2) N. Foulds (England); (3) D. Taylor (England) v (4) A. Higgins (England); (5) J. Williams (Wales) v (6) R. Gould (England); (7) V. Jones (Wales) v (8) B. Mitchell (England); (9) J. Brown (England) v (10) M. Black (England); (11) G. Murphy (England) v (12) P. Bevan (England); (13) D. Nisbet (Scotland) v (14) J. Gray (Scotland); (15) J. White (England) v (16) J. Trickett (England); (17) A. Bevan (England) v (18) J. Knowles (England); (19) J. S. Smith (England) v (20) J. S. Smith (England); (21) J. S. Smith (England) v (22) J. S. Smith (England); (23) J. S. Smith (England) v (24) J. S. Smith (England); (25) J. S. Smith (England) v (26) J. S. Smith (England); (27) J. S. Smith (England) v (28) J. S. Smith (England); (29) J. S. Smith (England) v (30) J. S. Smith (England); (31) J. S. Smith (England) v (32) J. S. Smith (England); (33) J. S. Smith (England) v (34) J. S. 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David Frost

Paris match put back

RUGBY UNION

THE ALMOST inevitable decision to postpone Saturday's France-Wales match finally came yesterday after the pitch at the Parc des Princes was found to be frozen to a depth of seven inches and after efforts to defrost it had predictably failed.

The game will now be played on March 30 which, considering that France and Wales are generally considered to be the two strongest teams, could mean that the vital match of the Championship will now be played at the end rather than the beginning of the season.

The postponement could prove to be the cruellest of luck for David Waters, the Welsh captain, who has been laid forward in the absence of the injured Bob Norster.

GLoucester, unhappy that the demands of county, country, and the new international tournament will leave them without leading players for long periods, are threatening to disrupt Gloucester's county campaign next season by issuing a club-owners' rule to their players.

Waters had been chosen to win his first cap in Paris. By the time of Wales's next match against England at Cardiff on February 16, Norster is expected to have recovered from his broken jaw.

Most Welshmen will be pleased that the postponement of Saturday's match means that the formidable Norster will probably be available for the whole of Wales's four-match Championship campaign. On the other hand by March 30 the Welsh will probably be able to field a fully fit Jean-Luc Joliet at No. 8, and the French are usually at their happiest on the dry grounds at the end of the season when a little greenness appears on the grass trees in the stands.

The postponement could indirectly help England for their visit on February 16 to Cardiff where they have not won since 1983. Wales have not won a match on the Welsh ground since Saturday's defeat in the Championship season. The match will therefore be a rematch of January 5, and these games will allow England's largely untapped opportunity to field their best players.

March 20 was the first available date on which the postponed France-Wales match could be played.

Hope for French

The Ray French saga appears to be on its way towards a satisfactory conclusion, with the RFU trying to change the regulations so that teachers who are or have been Rugby League players can take a full part in the coaching and administration of schools Rugby Union.

Earlier this season French, who played Rugby Union for England before playing Rugby League for Great Britain, was told he could no longer belong to the Gloucestershire Schools Committee on which he had sat for 16 years.

But yesterday Bob Weighill, secretary of the RFU, said the Rugby Union were trying to clear up the situation so that people in French's position could continue their work with schools rugby.

"There is still a long way to go," said Weighill, "but the RFU is discussing the whole question of the participation of schoolteachers who are Rugby League players and how the regulations could be changed to include them."

David Frost

Doyle pulls the strings



Charles Edwards talks to Ireland's new coach Mick Doyle (above) as they prepare to meet England

AT IRISH squad training sessions, Mick Doyle's whistle dangles from a length of hairy twine from around his neck. He has been using the same intelligent string since he took charge of his first international practice in September, a few weeks after being appointed national coach in succession to Willie John McBride, who served only one of the three years of office.

It's not that Doyle — or the Irish Rugby Football Union — can't afford a more conventional cord. "The last would let me change that length of twine now," says Doyle, "and I'm keeping it for good luck."

The more conservative Irish rugby followers think the coach and the new-look side he has helped put together, will need all the good fortune going. Doyle, they believe, may have given himself not only that piece of twine, but actual rope enough of it to hang himself and his fellow-selectors by the end of the International Championship. The first trial is at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

There's the matter of Tony Ward, for starters. The selection of Paul Dean, Ward's recent club-mate, at fly-half, and the lack of a specialist goal-kicker, he says, in an oblique reference to the absence of Ward, who's individualistic style does not appear to Ireland's present selectors.

"It's one thing if you're depending on a kicker totally. But I'm saying that we are not, and that's a different story. If we land one goal-kick, fine; if we don't, there's nothing we can do about it; we've just got to score tries."

"Look at Michael Lynagh. He was supposed to be the Australian recognised kicker, and I've never seen anybody who missed as much. But I

will be the mainland Chinese who are unable to play here for political reasons but rejoin the grand prize in Tokyo next week.

In the meantime she may also be tested by her competitor Gillian Gilks, playing in the women's doubles with Karen Beckman and in the mixed with Martin Dew. However, Mrs Perry will be top seeded in both events.

Top seed in the women's singles is Helen Troke, the European champion from Southampton and she is scheduled for a final on Sunday with an old rival, Kirsten Larsen of Denmark.

Morten Frost of Denmark and Liem Swie King from Indonesia are seeded to reach the men's singles final, but England's Nick Yates and Steve Baddeley, who both performed superbly in Hong Kong last week are seeded to reach the last eight.

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ALL DOWN TO DEAN - Ireland are banking on the Irish stand-off to move the ball fast

Doyle, full of homespun Kerry zest and good humour, seems unworried by these criticisms. When he took over, he was adamant the talent was there to replace Ollie Campbell, John O'Donnell, Pergus Slattery and the other old soldiers of Ireland's so-called Dad's Army.

He has never deviated from that view. "As coach I will always pick a team, rather than a goal-kicker," he says, in an oblique reference to the absence of Ward, who's individualistic style does not appear to Ireland's present selectors.

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don't want to get hung up on kicking, and I want to escape from the frame of mind which makes you over-reliant on kickers?"

Scrummaging? "All right, our pack is not the strongest one around at the moment. But we'll always win our own ball, and we'll get the ball in and out quickly — these macho scrums that go on forever are not part of our book."

As Doyle points out, Ireland should win possession, and the arrival of Nigel Carr, Phillip Mathews and Brian Spillane has added mobility to the back row. Meanwhile, the coach is putting his money on Dean's ability to move the ball fast so that Ireland can exploit the attacking potential of what he regards as a first-class three-quarter line.

It adds up to a unusual approach for Ireland, one which Doyle's critics see as an almost heretical departure. But, says the coach, "We've been too predictable for far too long. Everybody always expects us to rush out and kick the hell out of everything that moves. That's fine, that's part of the Irish character."

"But allied to that style, we've got to have a very precise idea of what we are doing. Look at the present team and you will see talent and attacking skill. And that's the game these guys want to play."

Even Doyle's critics admit his coaching record is impeccable. In five seasons in charge of Leinster, he won the inter-provincial championship four times, including an unprecedented three in a row. But that did not prevent McBride leapfrogging Doyle to take over as national coach in 1983.

A whitewash in last season's championship was followed by McBride's dramatic removal last summer. Now Mick Doyle — Cambridge Blue, Lion and holder of 20 Irish caps — stands on the threshold of his greatest challenge. And his whistle will continue to hang from a model white cord and twine for the immediate future, at least.

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Mrs Perry's biggest hurdles

Matthew Engel in Madras

Top class by any standard

CRICKET

"AH, YES," I hear you say now that the initial euphoria of hearing the score has passed, and the thought is, "Well, so what? It was only against India." Marshall wasn't playing... Let's see them make 611 for five against the West Indies, then we'll believe they can bat. I saw Gattling and Fowler bat last summer — a different story then, all right..."

One of the former England players now in Madras has already been heard talking along these lines, with the added jibe that the runs should have been scored more quickly. I think that's a bit harsh. The great totals in history have never been made against attacks that were bowling well at the time. The Indian attack that began the England innings was fit, competent and well-balanced, however ragged it might have looked by Tuesday afternoon.

The best thing England could have done in the past two days was to pile up 600 runs. They have done that, and to complain of the poverty of the bowlers is as irrelevant as the absence of Larwood. You can only play the current opposition, not the memories and fancies of the past. Fowler and Gattling did that brilliantly; Gattling, after the first over or two, done everything they could to make a success. They have done it to win the fourth Test. Now it is up to the bowlers.

Three years ago, Madras at Pongaltine was the lowest point of Gattling's career. After a three-day Test, he was given out caught off his pad for nought and yet another failure. Now, after 1,080 runs in all on the tour, 916 in first-class matches and 482 (average 82) in the Tests, he looks, on paper as in the flesh, like a world-class cricketer.

In the past seven years, he has been on all England's tours except the three to Australia. With luck, he will come as a very nasty surprise to them in the one-day competition next month, and again next summer.

The situation it stands on the last day is made for the imperturbable Gavaskar, who has saved so many Test matches for India over the past 15 years, but even if he has recovered from his mysterious ailment, it is hard to tell how much determination he has left. At present, no one expects him to lead India in Australia, though things here can change very quickly.

Shastri's major rival appears to be Amarnath, though he has been dropped from next week's three international matches — the squad was picked before his 78 here — so it is hard to see how he can suddenly become the one-day captain. If the next two days do not produce one of the great Gavaskar in-

nings, the final Test at Kanpur may see the end of an era.

Gower confirmed at his rest-day press conference that England would probably bat on for a short while this morning to get the possible benefits of the heavy roller and a brief slog. Already, at 611, England's total is their fourth highest in an overseas Test, and only 619 at Kingston in 1929-30 seems out of range.

However, the overall tone of Gower's gathering reflected the rule established under Brearley and Willis, that the better England is, the more ratty the captain gets.

When asked about the changes in the batting order that led to Edmonds and Foster being promoted ahead of him, Gower threatened to walk out and go back to bed. Fawcett questions only, please. It is a small price to pay for the revival of English cricket, but stupid and unnecessary just the same.

Gower was extra-anxious not to lose in Madras — the one possibility that now can be confidently discounted — because Kanpur has a reputation as a featherbed. Presumably, if England go into

the match 2-1 up and not 2-1 down, it could be a very different pitch: not much water in the preparation perhaps, a raging turner, men round the bat, umpires under pressure.

The umpires for Kanpur have not yet been announced, though it is known that England are reluctant to accept the two who have been nominated by the Indian board. Tony Brown, the England manager, is most anxious to keep the matter low-key and persuade the Indians to make an unpublishable change.

Swaroop Kishen, whose reputation was so battered in Bombay, is said not to be involved in the pitch, but he has lost chance to umpire a Test before retirement. The other umpires who have particularly offended England are Messrs D. R. Dotiwallah (at the second Test), S. K. Bose (who stood with Dotiwallah during the defeat at Ahmedabad, and was really bad) and M. G. Subramanian (at the West Zone match at Rajkot).

The last two are most probably those named. If any of these three, or Swaroop, walks out at Kanpur, England will have lost a battle. But by then, with luck, it may be impossible to lose the war.

Donlan 'too costly'

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens have lost interest in Steve Donlan, the 30-year-old Leigh and Great Britain centre who has been offered £25,000 at his last season's own request. Their offer of £25,000 was rejected, and the club's secretary Geoff Sutcliffe said yesterday: "We feel this was a very good bid for a player his age. We will not be increasing it."

Leigh have also turned down Wigan's offer of £15,000 and Brian Jullif for skipper Donlan. Halifax's home game against Leeds on Sunday has been switched to Huddersley, where the club's owners should guarantee that the match is played. The return fixture at Huddersley on April 14 will be switched to Halifax.

Whitbread, the first company to sponsor a race in England in 1987 and firm supporters of the sport ever since, are to increase their interest by sponsoring a whole day's racing at Liverpool with £45,000 in added prize money. Feature of the day will be the Whitbread Trophy, formerly the Kalkenberg Pils Steeplechase and the Topham Trophy, one of only three races to be run over the Grand National course.

Another top class race will be the Gold Label Steeplechase run over the Midway course and expected to appeal as a consolation prize for those who failed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

John Hughes, Clerk of the Course at Aintree and the man who framed the Whitbread races, says that the Grand National safety limit of 40 runners will be retained this year and repairs to the County Stand, damaged by fire last December, are going well and will be completed before the big meeting.

Two of the best race mares we have seen for many years, Time Charter and Habibi, will be sent to the Queen's stud at Sandringham to be mated with Shirley Heights. Offspring of Shirley Heights have won 68 races to a value of £595,675, which still leaves him a little way to go before he catches Bustino, whose offspring have netted £1,063,619 after six crops.

Pagan Sun, who has been running over hurdles, has 71b and figures in the Coral and Ladbrooke list at 20-1. It is interesting to note that he stormed away from the former to win over seven furlongs in the race after the Lincoln last year, showing that he comes to hand early. He could be worth

Vintage Toll, second in the race last year with 6st 4lb, has the same in the Coral and Ladbrooke list at 16-1 but is 20-1 with the sponsors and Corals.

Trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald, who had his jumpers in tip-top shape before the freeze-up, considers the five-year-old reasonably treated and says that

BADMINTON

Richard Jago in Taiwan

Perry fit to resume

Nora Perry, twice a world gold medalist, takes a vital step here today towards ending a great career this season with more world championship medals.

After weeks of debilitating injuries Mrs Perry has just flown out to join the England group here in Taiwan for the second of the Pro-Kennex world tournaments, the Taipei Masters — with only five weeks left before the squad for the world championships in Calgary is to be named.

She will be attempting to recreate partnerships with the European champion, Gill Clark, and world mixed doubles champion, Thomas Kihlstrom, which have been badly disrupted recently.

Neither Mrs Perry nor Miss Clark has been fully fit recently, while Mrs Perry split up because the Swede was reluctant to leave his children behind to practise in England. However, the England manager, Ciro Cinghio's daughter Anna is currently acting as child minder.

Mrs Perry's biggest hurdles

will be the mainland Chinese who are unable to play here for political reasons but rejoin the grand prize in Tokyo next week.

In the meantime she may also be tested by her competitor Gillian Gilks, playing in the women's doubles with Karen Beckman and in the mixed with Martin Dew. However, Mrs Perry will be top seeded in both events.

Top seed in the women's singles is Helen Troke, the European champion from Southampton and she is scheduled for a final on Sunday with an old rival, Kirsten Larsen of Denmark.

Morten Frost of Denmark and Liem Swie King from Indonesia are seeded to reach the men's singles final, but England's Nick Yates and Steve Baddeley, who both performed superbly in Hong Kong last week are seeded to reach the last eight.

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NORA PERRY... rejoining partners

GOLF

David Davies

Torrance honoured

Sain Torrance yesterday became the last White Horse Whisky Personality of the Year. He was awarded the £2,500 cheque, given a memento, photographed sitting on a model white horse and figuratively rode off into a sadly setting sun.

The award, made principally by the Association of Golf Writers, has been one of the happier sponsorships in the sport, concentrating as it does on the man and not necessarily his achievements. The winners have been Brian Barnes, Sandy Lyle, and in 1983 Tony Jacklin illustrated perfectly the nature of the award.

At the end there was a big smile, a handshake, an arm around the shoulders for the West German from the Scot, and in that moment Torrance became the 1984 winner not just because he was the leading Briton in the Sperry Order of Merit but because of his deportment throughout a career that is now beginning to match in rewards the talents he has

long been known to possess. In the Spanish Open Torrance had a chance to win both the tournament and, eventually, the Order of Merit. He was paired with Bernhard Langer who was in the same position and it rapidly became clear that it was Langer, not Torrance, who was going to win.

As if to rub Torrance's nose into the Valencian dirt, Langer went round in an almost unbelievable 62, a new course record by four shots, and although his aspirations were being shattered before his very eyes, Torrance encouraged and supported Langer the whole way round.

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and fourth from four outings, the last being a two length second to All Fair in a good handicap over a mile at Newbury, Lewis, on holiday in Barbados, is said to be pleased with the handicap award, but I would not like to take the odds for the form does not amount to much and I think he would be better suited by a longer trip.

Cataldi, on the other hand, has much better claims to being among the anti-post favourites, although once again Ladbrokes are not so keen as the others and have not given him a quote.

Cataldi has 8st 10lb, is trained by Guy Harwood and is a strong, deep-girthed son of a son of his sire, who won two of his eight races last season. He comes to hand early as he showed last term when third on the first day of the season to Peter Martin and Bold In. He won the course and distance and won next time out at Beverley in early April.

The form that makes him look fairly well handicapped is his fourth in the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket, a Group One race worth over £38,000 to the winner.

Metelski 4-8, Star of a Gunner 5-7, Simple Melody 4-7, Rivers Edge 7-7, Behind The Lines 5-8, Stracmore Nurse 5-6, Pythagorean 4-6, Qualitair Prince 4-5, Noble Mount 4-4, Catcher In The Rye 5-2, Catman 4-2, Even Banker 4-2, Bakers Douin 4-2, Scrummage 7-6-0, Majestic Star 8-8, Merry Tom 5-5-10, Rose 5-5-5.

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